Valentine's Couples — Page 10

Women's Volleyball action continues — Page 20

College faculty assisting Hungarian colleges — Page 24

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE


# NIAGARA NEWS

Feb. 11, 2000 FREE VOLUME 30 ISSUE 10

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism - Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus


## Welland Winter Carnival

Standing from left, Miss Congeniality, Jennifer Holmes, 16, of the Welland Winter Carnival Queen's Court, Sue Marriage, treasurer of the Welland Smowmobile Club, Don Beaudoin, president of the Welland Snowmoblie Club, Rose Smith, chairman of the Welland Recreational Program and First Princess of the Queen's Court, Amanda Love, 18, pose with selected students from nearby schools. Wednesday's events were supposed to include snowmobile rides but were substituted with a hayride instead, because of the weather. The 37th annual Winter Carnival continues until Feb. 27.

Photo by Lisa Taft

# College expansion awaits approval

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Colleges and universities across Ontario will be breaking ground this spring, marking the beginning of the largest physical expansion of post-secondary institutions in more than 30 years.

This past Monday, Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, announced that post-secondary institutions awaiting provincial funding to begin their capital expansion plans will have an answer to their request before the end of the month.

In a press release, Cunningham reaffirmed her government's commitment to make post-secondary education more accessible despite an anticipated 21 per cent jump in enrolment over the next three years.

"Our number one priority is to ensure that we have space at college or university for all qualified students who wish to attend," said Cunningham.

The increase in enrolment is, in large measure, due to the "double cohort" of students graduating from Grades 12 and 13 simultaneously and entering post-secondary schools when the senior grade is eliminated in 2003.

"In order for the buildings to be ready in time for the anticipated peak in student enrolment in 2003, the shovel must be in the ground this spring.

"We will have our decisions made in time to make this a reality," the minister added.

Continued on page 5

# College offers 74 online courses to 333 students

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Niagara College, along with other Ontario colleges, offers several programs online and in learning resource centres (LRC).

The programs were started about two years ago to "service a need for education out there for people who are either limited by travel or time, and this allows them to take courses at their convenience," says Carole Rogers, assistant distance learning and open learning centre co-ordinator at Niagara College.

At the beginning of the 2000 winter term, Niagara College has six programs offered in the LRC with 40 students registered through Niagara. These students can come in and work at a computer, or, if they need personal help, a teacher, such as Rogers, is available.

The online Internet courses are a little different because the students can complete their courses in their own home.

There are 74 courses offered online this term with about 333 students registered through Niagara College.

These programs are taught via the Internet but not all are taught by Niagara professors. For example, a student may be registered through Niagara College but be taught by faculty from Durham College in Oshawa.

Niagara College is ranked as having the second highest enrolment in online programs in Ontario, a level "which is a great achievement, and we are very proud of that," says Rogers.

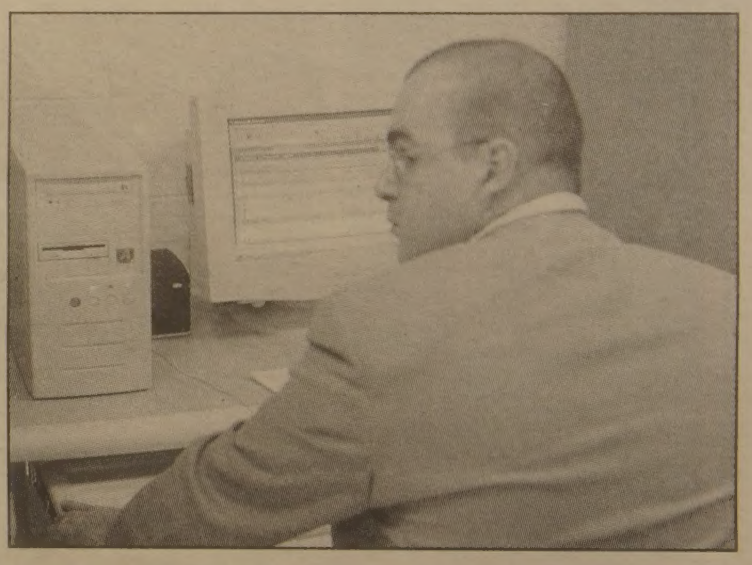
Most people who sign up for these programs are those who want to get a better education or just simply upgrade their skills to get a better job.

Students can start in September or January, as with other programs. The LRC also offers eight intake programs, which can be started anytime during the year.

Enrolment at Niagara College has been affected because "a lot more courses that have not been able to be offered can now be offered because of the way we are offering the system," say Rogers.

She adds that these programs have a 99.9 per cent graduation rate, and those who work hard enough do go on to find jobs in their field of training.

To find more information about the programs you can go to Niagara College's Web site at www.niagarac.on.ca.



A student attends his online class at Niagara College, Welland.

Photo by Miranda Hubbs


25 SEAWAY MALL
25th ANNIVERSARY
NIAGARA STREET, WELLAND 735-0694
MON. TO FRI. 10:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
INTERNET ADDRESS: http://www.seawaymall.com

SELF SURF
http://www.seawaymall.com

# SAC

# Renovations will 'attract new students'

## *Addition of games room will cost students, college $170,000 to build*

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

The games are coming to Niagara College — no, not the Olympic Games — but video games, as the Student Administrative Council (SAC) looks to renovate its student centre.

The Welland campus student centre — the building that includes the After Hours campus pub, a recreational television area, Welland campus SAC offices and the conference room — is due for a facelift. With the addition of a new cafeteria, college officials have decided now is the time to spruce up the place.

The renovations consist of the addition of a games room to be built beside the original building, changes to the SAC offices, conference room and television lounge and the redecoration of the pub.

The addition of the games room will come at a cost of $170,000.

"The financing is to be jointly paid by Niagara College and SAC," said David Seto, Welland campus vice-president of student events. "We are paying part of the $170,000; Niagara College is paying part of that."

To help finance the addition, SAC will be taking a loan from Niagara College and repaying it with money generated by the increase in SAC fees, revenues from the pub and from the new games room.

*'The financing is to be jointly paid by Niagara College and SAC.' — David Seto*

"I think to generate revenue it is great in the long run," Seto said. "It is going to benefit the college, the students, SAC and everyone in general. Students will have a great time. They will have a place to hang out between classes."

Seto said he feels the addition will not only help students relax between classes, but help attract new students to the college.

"It will just be a more attractive thing for upcoming students who are thinking about coming to Niagara College. It is more attractive because it just takes away from being at the books all the time. It might just push people over to say 'yeah, I want to go to Niagara College because it's got that great recreational facility.' I know it is not the main reason why people are at Niagara College, but it will be a good place to spend downtime."

The new addition coincides with the renovations of the SAC office. The office will be rearranged, adding a new door into the building. This will move SAC financial administrator Cindy Blanchard's office towards the back of the room with a new reception desk added to greet incoming students. The office and conference room will be re-carpeted. The renovations are the first since the building was built in 1991 and are expected to cost about $7,400.

The third phase of the student centre facelift will occur in the After Hours pub area. The plan is to redecorate the pub for the first time in five years.

"I don't know what he (Dave Rapelje, manager of student life) has in mind for it but it definitely needs freshening up," Seto said. "Because the pool tables and all the arcade machines are going to be coming out of the pub and going into this (games) room, that's going to allow for more seating . . . When you are going to move all that stuff around, the whole place is going to need some freshening up.

*'It's going to benefit the college, the students, SAC and everyone in general.' — David Seto*

"I think Dave is going to be working with a designer, coming up with different scenarios and different costs, and then SAC will look at all these drawings and check out the different costs and then make a motion if they will allocate the money to it."

Money for the project is coming from the college-funded loan. To repay it, Blanchard is adding it to SAC's budget.

She said she hasn't worked out the details as to how many years they'll need to have to pay it back and how much money is to be paid each year. She explained SAC is setting up a capital reserve fund to help pay for these and future repairs.

"We'd been advised to set up a capital reserve fund to the tune of $370,700 a year," Blanchard said. "We would set that money into the capital reserve fund every year for, let's say, 10 years. Then it (the yearly payment) will slowly decrease."

Blanchard said the reserve would only to be used for repairs to the building.

Since the facility is 10 years old, it is showing wear, as some of the walls are marked and need repainting. Carpets are ripped and will be replaced. Windows need caulking and the roof needs repairs.

"Consultants came in on behalf of Niagara College, went through our building and said, 'A building this age is going to need this, this and this, which is this much money.'

"It is almost like a maintenance plan for this building, so we are setting up an account so that this money will always be there — so when this roof caves on us the money is there."

Groundbreaking for the addition and renovations for the student centre are expected to take place in May and construction will continue through the summer and be completed by September.

# *This student means business*

From left, Ross Staples and Don Frank, of the Welland Minor Hockey Association, present a scholarship award to Jeanine Vanderhoff, a second-year student in the Business — Sales program at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Nancy Schappert, program co-ordinator. The $300 scholarship is awarded to the student with the highest grade point average in the program's first year and acknowledges the class's assistance in selling program advertising for the hockey association's annual Little NHL Tournament.

**Photo by Leigh Beihl**

# New faces onboard

## *College students take up new duties to fill vacated SAC rep seats*

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) appointed two new representatives for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

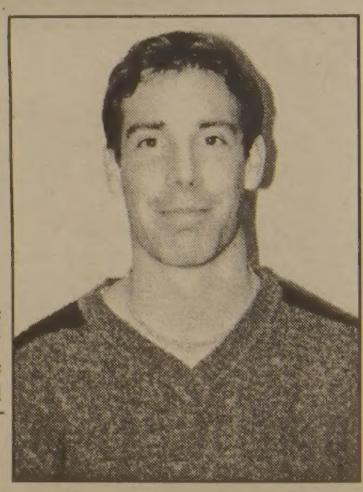
*'Both of these students worked very hard for SAC.' — Kevin Reles*

Tanya Cegnar, 20, is a second-year Tourism student and the new vice-president of campus events at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

James Upper, 22, is a second-year Business Adminstration — Accounting Co-op student and the new vice-president of campus affairs at the Glendale campus.

SAC made the appointments from the pool of class representatives when the two positions were vacated early this semester. Kevin Reles, president at the Glendale campus, said he is pleased with the SAC selections.

"Both of these students worked very hard for SAC. They deserve the recognition and the opportunities of being on the council."



JAMES UPPER

TANYA CEGNAR

# EYE ON NIAGARA

## Fund-raising event 'raging success'

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Come support the arts.

Niagara College Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) students will be holding several fund-raising activities, such as selling hot dogs and possibly a haircutting day, to help finance student documentaries.

Their efforts began with a Jeopardy pub night on Jan. 24 arranged by film students. The event included a Jeopardy competition between teachers and teacher assistants. Bob Doyle, BRTF teacher assistant, won.

There were live performances by bands and some spinning by DJs.

The event, primarily arranged by the documentary producers, was "a raging success," says Holly Nichols, 25, of Toronto. "We raised about $900."

Sarah Mole, 21, of Hepworth, Ont., says everything turned out "really good" for that particular event, and she is hopeful for the same success in future fund-raising events.

For more information concerning fund-raising events, watch for announcements throughout the Welland campus's Voyageur wing and in future editions of the Niagara News.

## Parent visits schools as part of new curriculum

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

The votes are in and it looks as if the Grade 4 and 5 students of Ross Public School in Welland would each like to become Speaker of the House.

MP Gib Parent, the man who holds that title, visited with the Grade 4 and 5 students on Jan. 28 as part of their new curriculum on Canadian government.

"You are where I was in Grade 5," said Parent to the students. "Why not dream a little bit? It's possible to be anything you want. Get an education and work hard."

Parent explained his role in the House of Commons and had some not-so-reluctant volunteers don his Speaker's garb as he explained the significance of his uniform.

To their "oohs" and many "aahs" of admiration of his garments, he explained the black colour of his robes represents the seriousness of his job and the white represents being entrusted with the laws of Canada.

He demonstrated a mock entrance with the children as he would in the House, though the enthusiastic greeting he received from the students was not a standard part of the ceremony.

Questions flew and hands were quickly raised when the 33rd Speaker began a question and answer period.

Students asked him a variety of questions, from whether he gets weekends off to "Are you rich?" and "Who was your role model?" (The answer: Father Patrick Fogarty, former principal at Notre Dame, where Parent went to high school.)

One brave fifth grade student even asked, "Since you're the fourth most important man in Canada, do you make lots of money?"

Parent's visit with the students is part of a new curriculum for which they have yet to receive resources, said Grade 5 teacher Maxine Holmes.

"It's a good experience (to visit with politicians)," said Dylan Mask, 9, a Grade 4 student. "You get to learn a lot more by talking with them (politicians) than what you would learn in books."

When asked who would like to become Speaker of the House someday, every hand in the room was raised.

> ***'It's important for kids to see what their government does . . .'***
> ***— Gib Parent***

"I would like to be a politician because it would be a great experience," said fifth grade student Rihan Rahsi, 11.

Students asked Parent if he likes his job. "I love being a Speaker. It's a lot of fun," he said.

Andrew Thompson, 10, a fifth grade student, said, "It would be fun to be Speaker because you get to meet lots of people."

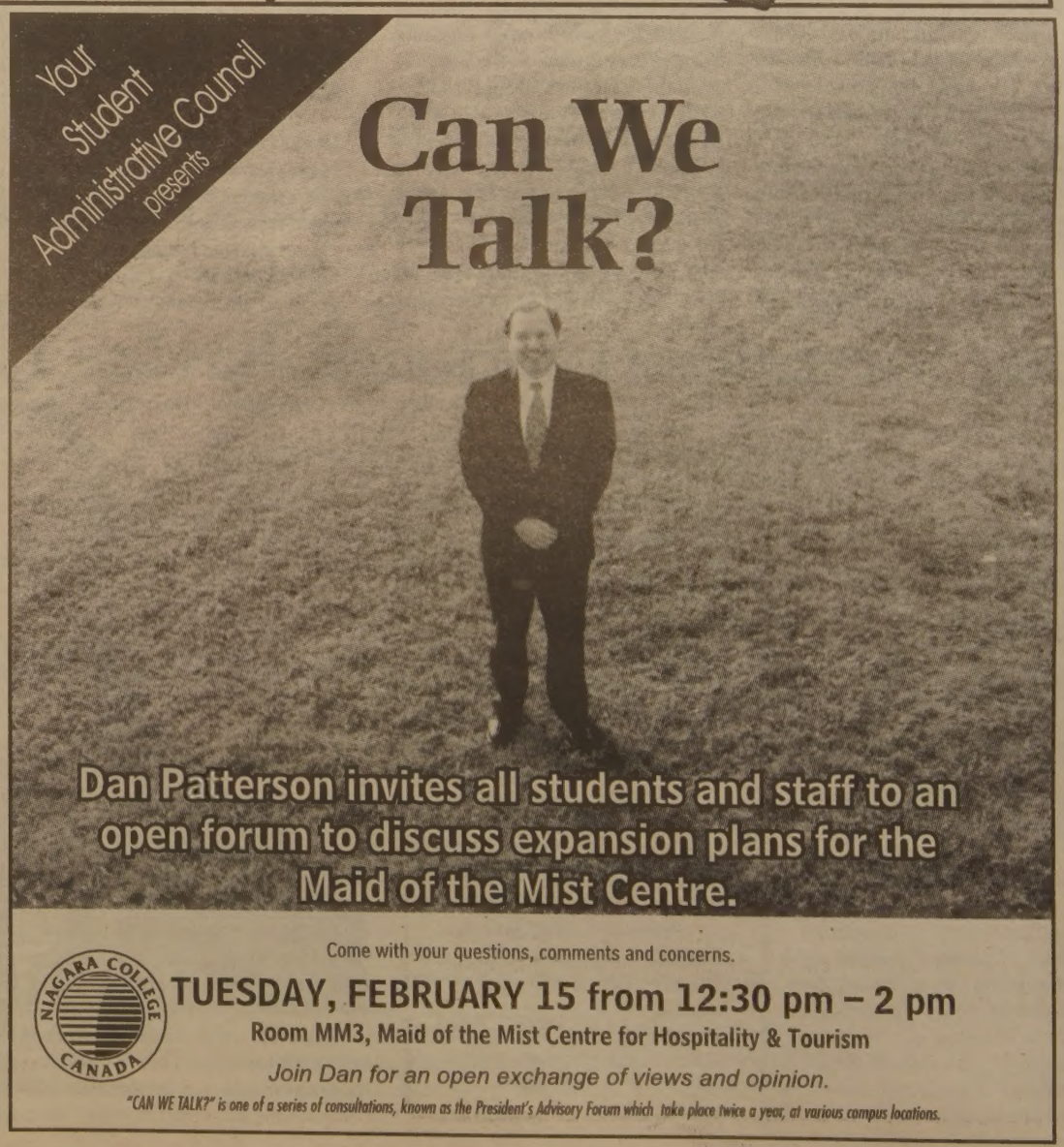
When asked what he talks to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien about, he replied, "We only talk about personal things, not politics."

"It's important for kids to see what their government does and to realize that they can be anything they want to be," Parent said. "I only visit with about 10 (elementary) schools a year maximum, but in Welland they can see I am one of them."

Looking for employment opportunities? or for someone to hire?

Check out the Employment opportunities page for jobs, or call 735-2211 Ext. 7748 to place an ad in the next edition of the Niagara News on

**Feb. 18**


Your Student Administrative Council presents
Can We Talk?
Dan Patterson invites all students and staff to an open forum to discuss expansion plans for the Maid of the Mist Centre.
Come with your questions, comments and concerns.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 from 12:30 pm – 2 pm
Room MM3, Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality & Tourism
Join Dan for an open exchange of views and opinion.
"CAN WE TALK?" is one of a series of consultations, known as the President's Advisory Forum which take place twice a year, at various campus locations.

Can you afford not to . . .
. . . put your trust in safe hands?
GIC ALTERNATIVES
(With 100% Guarantees & no probate fees)
MORTGAGES
(We'll shop for your Best Rate)
SEVERANCE PKGS/ PENSION TRANSFERS
(Pay less TAX with professional advice)
INHERITANCES, DIVORCE & INSURANCE SETTLEMENTS
(Putting your interests first)
RRSP/RESP TRANSFERS
(Let us actively manage your investments)
Call Today For Your
FREE GIC ALTERNATIVES REPORT
GREG LIDSTONE
Financial Advisor
905-374-7608
http://www.afpwmi.com
e-mail: lidstone@vaxxine.com
AFP WEALTH MANAGEMENT
Member of ING Group

# COMMUNITY WATCH

## Alcohol plus Rohypnol equals rape

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

It may be flattering when someone wants to buy you a drink but, at a recent forum on designer drugs, the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) caution that it can also be dangerous.

Rohypnol, an illegal sedative drug with no taste or smell, has been circulating in the Niagara Region and police are reaching out to hospitals, rape centres and the public to help curb its use.

The drug, also known as Rope Roachies and La Rocha, is a common prescription in Europe, Asia, Central and South America. It is manufactured legally in Mexico and illegally by bathroom-chemists in America and Canada. It is a sedative, producing effects similar to alcohol use without showing on police intoxication tests or producing a hangover. It is often used in conjunction with heroin, cocaine or crack to enhance the high.

Used with alcohol, Rohypnol lowers inhibitions and leaves no memory of the affected time, making it the drug of choice among rapists. It is virtually undetectable in a drink and its victim is not likely to feel anything out of the ordinary until waking up with a memory gap of several hours.

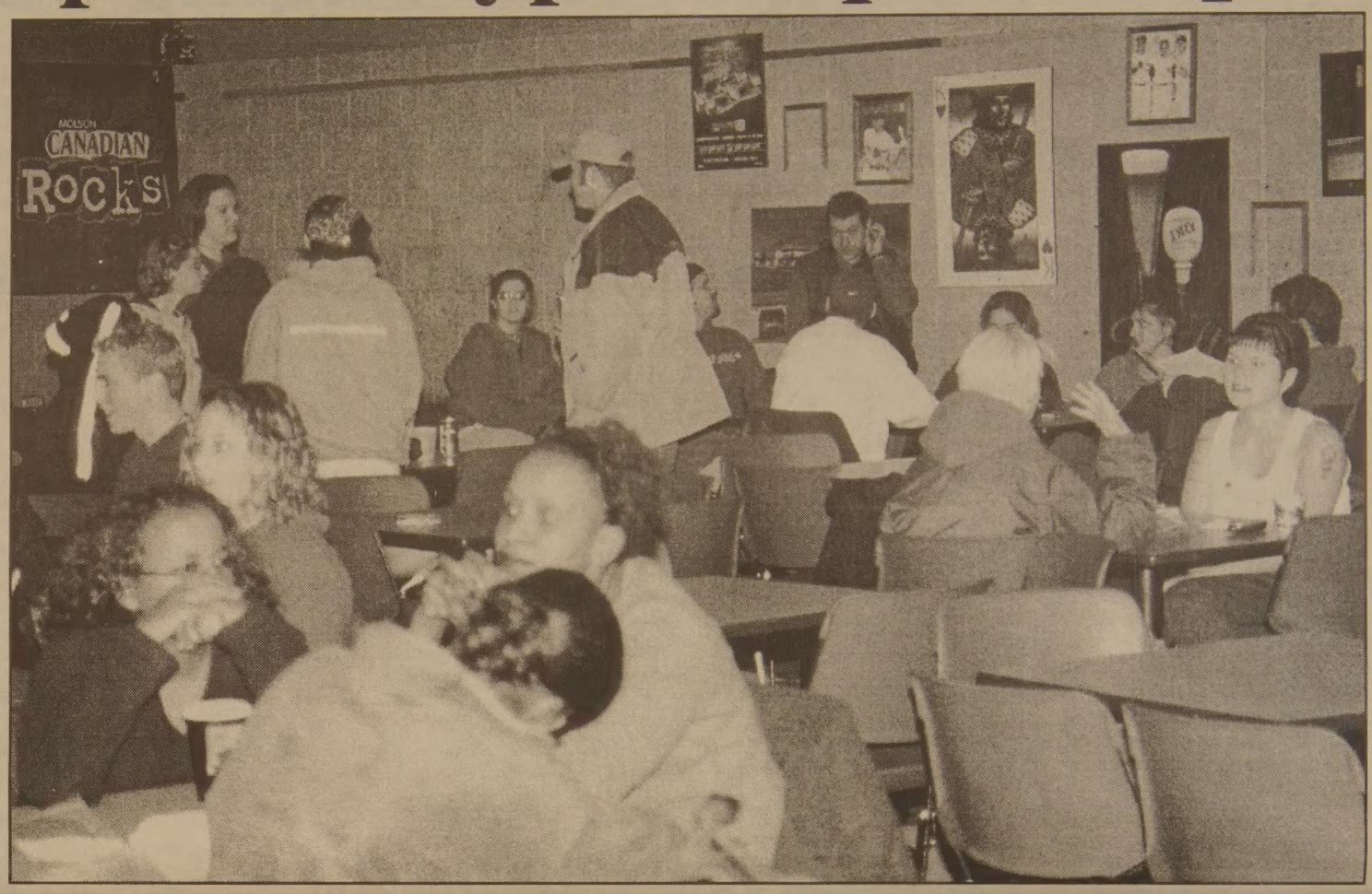
Lucie O'Neil, of the NRP, says that everyone is potentially at risk. Drug-related sexual assault is not gender specific or age specific. It can happen to anyone.

O'Neil is an analyst of the NRP's Violent Crimes Linkage Analysis System (ViCLAS), which tracks violent offenders by compiling, collating and cross-referencing violent crime reports from across the country. She says that drugs like Rohypnol are being used more frequently in assault cases and encourages those who suspect they may have been drugged to report it.

Rohypnol can be detected by a urine test up to 48 hours after ingestion, and even in cases of assault, police will not investigate without the victim's permission.

Detective Sargent Randy Bleich, of the NRP sexual assault and child abuse unit, says that only one in 18 assaults are ever reported to the police. Victims are often too humiliated by the assault, or intimidated by the investigation and legal process involved, to go to police. However, with counseling and using the services of the support available, victims should contact a rape centre for their own benefit and file the assault with ViCLAS for the benefit of others.

Predators always repeat, says O'Neil. "The more information we have, the more success we will have getting these people off the streets as soon as possible."




Niagara students drink beer and have fun while getting away from the pressures of schoolwork at the college's pub After Hours at the Welland campus.

Photo by Leigh Beihl

If you have been sexually assaulted, or think you may have been drugged contact:

- The Sexual Assault Treatment Centre Niagara (SATC-N) at the St. Catharines General Hospital or by calling 684-7271 extension 5000.
- The Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre (CARSA) at 684-4584.

All information will be held in confidence.

Don't be a victim.

- Don't leave any beverage unattended, anytime.
- Don't accept open container drinks.
- Don't accept drinks in a bar that are not provided by the bartender or server.
- Don't leave with strangers.
- Stay close to trusted friends.
- Be aware of your environment and who is in it.

## Servos gaining forensics experience, having fun in NRP

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

He's gaining experience and having "fun" in the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP).

Jeff Servos, 22, of Fonthill, is a second-year Police Foundation program student here. He was chosen to be a Forensics Services Unit volunteer in St. Catharines following an interview by NRP Sgt. Greg Hyatt, who is a 28-year veteran.

The opportunity to be interviewed was offered to all program students, but Servos was the only one selected.

"We would like to have had two students," Hyatt said, explaining there is enough "work for 10, but not enough supervision."

Hyatt said he "likes to keep it interesting." Servos spends about six hours a week filing, restructuring the office area, going out on calls on crime scenes, and assisting with detective counsel Craig Moore.

"He does excellent work," Hyatt said.

The NRP has had Niagara College students volunteer in the past. Hyatt has been in charge of hiring for the past two years.

Servos said he is happy working there.

"It's awesome. Everyday I learn something different." He said all the officers treat him with respect and he has "a lot of fun there."

Servos plans to have a career in policing. He recently applied to the NRP for a position as a police constable. His interviews are done and he hopes to "get hired on."

*'It's awesome. Every day I learn something different.'*
*— Jeff Servos*

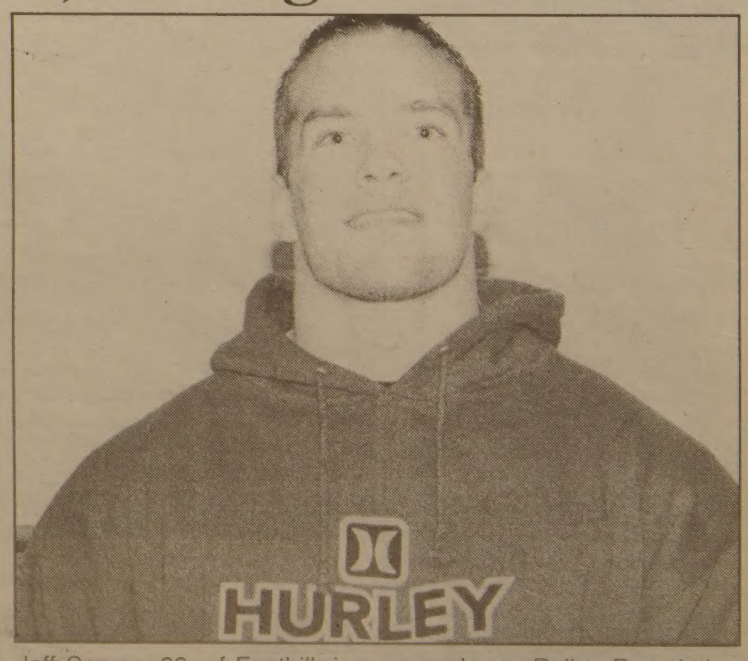
Servos said he chose this field because it is "challenging and complex." He likes the outdoors and being involved in the community.

"I like helping people, and giving back to the community." He also said he likes the idea that every shift is different.

Hyatt said this volunteer work gives Servos the "inside look into the vast and changing world of forensics."

"I think I would be a good police officer," Servos said. When he graduates in April he plans to enter the workplace immediately.

"This work is a good experience."




Jeff Servos, 22, of Fonthill, is a second-year Police Foundation program student. He is volunteering in the Forensics Services Unit for the Niagara Regional Police.

Photo by Tracey Allison

# EDUCATION FUNDING

# More students paying back their loans

## *High tuition levels blamed for number of loans in default*

**By JOHN ROBBINS**
**Staff Writer**

The provincial Tories are renewing their pledge to go after people who default on their student loans, even as the number of delinquencies continues to decline.

The number of students defaulting on loans issued through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) has dropped nearly four per cent, from 22.1 per cent in 1998 to 18.2 per cent in 1999.

"It's encouraging that more students are paying back their loans, but default rates are still too high," said Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, in a press release.

Leading all of Ontario's post-secondary institutions in the number of loan defaults are private vocational schools with a default rate of 31 per cent in 1999. Last year, the default rate at Ontario's 25 community colleges averaged 20.1 per cent while the default rate at the province's 17 universities averaged only 8.4 per cent.

The 1999 default rates reflect the status of student loans issued in the 1996-1997 academic year.

In 1998, the provincial government set as its goal an overall default rate of no more than 10 per cent by the year 2003.

"More can and must be done. Most students do repay their loans and it's not fair to them or to the taxpayers who are funding the system when other students default," Cunningham said.

Critics of the government's "get tough measures," however, question the government's figures and the message it conveys.

Marie Bountrogianni, MPP for Hamilton Mountain and Liberal critic for colleges and universities, said Cunningham's announcement is "just a way to distract people from the real issue that tuition is too high."

"The constantly increasing dependency on loans has left students burdened with debt loads the size of mortgages and has created an OSAP system constantly in need of new money as tuition rises and students are forced to borrow more to finance their education."

Bountrogianni said the OSAP program should be "revamped" in consultation with the program's administrators.

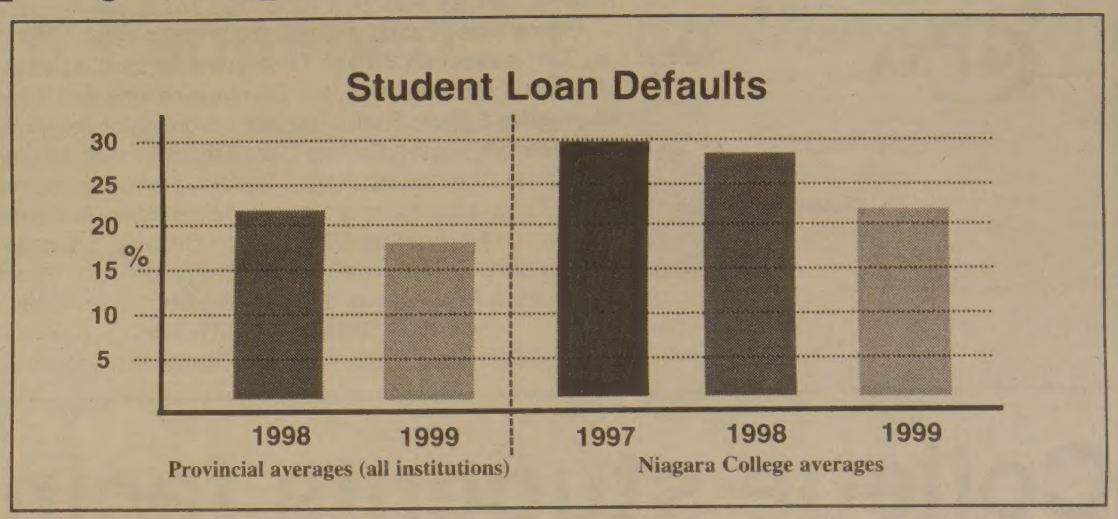
Bountrogianni said she plans to introduce a private members' bill in the Ontario Legislature this spring, calling for a freeze on tuition rates.

"Statistics lie. All you have to do is play around with the numbers," said Elizabeth Carlyle, deputy-chair of the Ottawa-based Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

CFS, Canada's largest student group, has more than 400,000 members at 60 colleges and universities across the country. Niagara College's Student Administrative Council is not a member.

Carlyle said a person who fails to make three loan payments is considered in default, whether or not back-payments are made and the loan eventually paid off.

"The provincial government is setting up a scenario where students are blamed for their own high debt load."




# College reports fewer loan defaults

## *College's rate below provincial benchmark*

**By JOHN ROBBINS**
**Staff Writer**

The number of Niagara College students defaulting on their student loans continues to decline and is below the provincial government's 1999 benchmark of 28.5 per cent.

The college's 1999 default rate was 22.5 per cent as compared with its previous rates of 28.3 per cent in 1998 and 30.4 per cent in 1997.

Despite the decline, Niagara College's default rate remains slightly higher than the provincial average of 20.1 per cent for Ontario colleges.

The provincial government requires post-secondary institutions to make information about their institution's default rates available to students.

"We definitely share the government's concern because (defaults) cost everyone," said Al Vaughan, Niagara College registrar.

While the college is doing what it can to further reduce the number of defaults, Vaughan said he's concerned about how these numbers may be interpreted.

"We (the college) are concerned about (the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities) publishing these statistics," said Vaughan.

"The implication is that colleges can do more."

However, many of the factors which affect default rates are beyond the college's control, Vaughan said. He said this includes "socio-economcic factors" that affect a student's ability to repay the loan.

"When you issue statistics without analysis of the causes, people can draw their own conclusion, which may or may not be accurate."

Other recent provincial government initiatives to decrease the number of student loan defaults include the following:

- Credit screening of new loan applicants.
- Recovering defaulted loans from income tax refunds.
- Introducing the Ontario Student Opportunity Grant, which reduces a student's debt to no more than $7,000 for each year of study.
- Requiring institutions to provide students with accurate information about graduation rates and graduate employment rates of the programs they offer.
- Requiring institutions with very high default rates to share the cost of defaulted loans.

# College awaits funding decision

**Continued from front**

Niagara College, like other post-secondary institutions, has a lot riding on the provincial government's decision.

Last October, Niagara College's Board of Governors gave "approval in principle" to the college's own expansion and modernization plans. Called Master Plan II, the $43.9-million project encompasses individual capital improvements at all three Niagara College campuses. Of the total projected cost of Master Plan II, $18.1 million in provincial funding under its SuperBuild program awaits the government's decision.

"Government has an opportunity to make a strategic investment," said Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, commenting on the provincial government's latest announcement.

While noting Niagara College is competing with 24 other colleges for funding, Patterson said the college has "put forward a very strong case."

Cunningham's press release comes just a week before Patterson is scheduled to speak at an open forum at the Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, to discuss the college's expansion plans at that campus.

First mentioned in the 1999 provincial budget last spring, SuperBuild was officially unveiled during the speech from the throne, in October.

At its November meeting, the Board of Governors approved a motion to make two separate applications for funding under the SuperBuild program.

Institutions making multiple submissions were required to prioritize their requests. In accordance with this guideline, the Board of Governors placed top priority on the Maid of the Mist Centre expansion and renovation project. When completed, this $7.34-million project will nearly double the number of existing student spaces at that campus, from 500 to about 950.

The college's other SuperBuild application asks the provincial government for $12.7 million for renovations to the Welland campus. The total projected cost of this project is $17.3 million.

ONTARIO Ministry of Education Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

The $2.9-billion SuperBuild fund was established in order to place all Ontario's capital infrastructure spending under one umbrella. Post-secondary education will be the first sector to receive funding under this initiative, with $742 million set aside for capital improvements this year alone.

To date, the provincial government has received about 100 separate funding requests from colleges and universities across Ontario. These proposals are being considered under four criteria: the number of new student spaces that would be created, demonstrated student demand for the institution and the programming to be offered at the new facility, the amount of private sector partnership funding in place and the project's potential contribution to long-term, regional economic development.

# *College adopts mandate for research*

**By JOHN ROBBINS**
**Staff Writer**

Niagara College's Board of Governors has adopted a mission statement allowing the college to pursue research and development projects in the future, during its Jan. 20 meeting.

For more than a year, the college's New Product Development Division has been building an infrastructure to support future research activities at the college.

These preparations, together with the research mandate, enable the college to apply for federal government research and development funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), a branch of the Canada Research Council.

"It will be essential now to have a recognized infrastructure and research plan in place to apply to the CFI fund in February 2000," said Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, in a written submission to the Board of Governors.

The mission statement adopted by the board is as follows:

"Niagara College is committed to pursuing research and development endeavours that:

- Support community and economic development in the Niagara Region.
- Enhance the quality of our college's academic programs and professional development of our personnel.
- Contribute to the educational excellence and innovation in social and economic development on a national and global scale, particularly in relation to technology transfer, consultation and information exchange, support of business innovation and enterprise development."

# EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6005
**Editor:** Lisa Taft; **Associate Editor:** Cassandra Simons; **Assistant Editor:** Miranda Hubbs;
**Publisher:** Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
**Managing Editor:** Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program;
**Associate Managing Editor:** Gary Erb, professor Journalism-Print program;
**Editorial Consultant:** Nancy Geddie, professor Journalism-Print program;
**Advertising Manager:** Ron Tufts, advertising professor; **Advertising-Account Manager:** VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley;
**Advertising Design:** Ron Crowley, Shannon Mastaler;
**Photography Consultant:** Jhim Burwell, photography instructor; **Photography Crew Editor:** Sam Bayly;
**Film Processing:** Jamie McIntosh, Jamie White, Mark Garrett;
**Contact Sheets:** Natsuko Tamura, Miranda Hubbs;
**Scanning Crew:** Shannon Deary, Matt Holley, Tara Purpura.

## College students facing tuition hikes

Niagara College has joined the list of many Ontario colleges and universities requesting funding for capital expansion.

Our college, like the other post-secondary institutions, would like to expand in order to accommodate the estimated 21 per cent jump in enrolment over the next three years. Wouldn't it be funny if by then no one could afford a post-secondary education?

Rumour has it that post-secondary tuition has more than doubled in the past five years, 126 per cent to be exact.

I understand the need to pay for new equipment; advancing technologically doesn't come cheap. Location for that equipment creates a need for reconstruction. Costs need to be covered.

What I don't understand is how students, like me, are supposed to absorb the massive increase in tuition.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is looking for money these days. Where are all of those people who defaulted on their loans? Happy, I hope. Now OSAP is cracking down, tightening its grip on the money. Not that it was loose with it before.

Jobs and assistance provide money, money pays for tuition, tuition pays for education and education is inevitably supposed to earn students more money. It's the circle of a student's life. Unfortunatley, it's a circle that is severely warped.

Last time I checked, the minimum wage hadn't gone up. Gas prices, textbooks and tuition have though. Congratulations to any full-time student who can also pull off full-time employment.

Unfortunately, scheduling even part-time work is an effort for full-time students.

Maybe the thought process behind tuition hikes regarding students was one like "they'll get used to it." At one time, that may have been true. A 126-per-cent increase in five years, however, is *a slap in the face for struggling students.*

I don't claim to have any ingenious ideas on how else to cover the cost of post-secondary education. I just wish that when the government decided to increase tuition, the effect that decision would have on students had gotten a little more consideration.

**Lisa Taft**

## Procrastination will get you nowhere in college

Stop procrastinating.

While walking through the hallways of Niagara College, one hears statements such as "There's no way we can do all this work" or "Don't they (teachers) know we'd still like to have social lives?"

What ridiculous statements. Teachers aren't handing out assignments to purposely ruin "social lives." They are simply trying to help students prepare for careers.

Why are students here? Just for their social lives? Or, is it maybe, to get some education to progress into the career of their choice?

Don't get me wrong, I like social activities as well. They're necessary for personal growth too, but I'm paying for an education, and I intend to get it. If students are so concerned about spending time with friends, why not spend the time wisely, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the college?

Generally by 5 p.m. the college is empty of students. If one used the "business hours" to concentrate on studies, assignments and group work, evening and weekends would be free for social calendars.

Niagara College's administration and faculty want us to succeed. Struggling students have a number of services to assist them: peer tutoring, career planning services, counselling, special needs and several self-help guides.

There is no reason to fail classes or for social lives to be unfulfilled, unless one doesn't prioritize goals or accept the offer of helping hands by not utilizing college services.

**Cassandra Simons**

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise. There shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.
All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors, which do not lessen the value of the advertisement, are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

# VIEWPOINTS

## Feeling rejected by Canadian Tire writer wonders how it happened

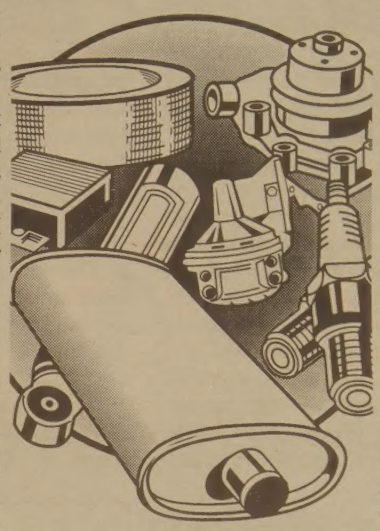
By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

Thanks for nothing.

I recently applied for a Canadian Tire card for the second time and got rejected again. This second rejection really flares my temper and makes me wonder if I want to do business there anymore. If I'm not good enough for a card, why should I be good enough to shop there. Granted, I don't shop there all the time for every purchase I make, but it's the principle I'm questioning.

***I doubt if I will ever step foot in another Canadian Tire for a while or ever again.***

Now don't get me wrong. I do love shopping at Canadian Tire for all of my fishing and automotive needs, but this rejection confuses me and makes me wonder how they pick applicants for their cards.



They must have overlooked these few points on my application. First, I make $20 per hour at my job when I'm not in school. Second, I bought my own car without a loan from the bank. Three, I don't have bad credit. Four, my brother and sister got one when they were in college and everything on theirs is the same as mine. Five, I'm not on Ontario Student Assistance program funding. So what's missing on my application? My blood?

I recently got a Sears card in the mail. The only reason I applied for that card was for the free pen set they were giving out with the sign up. I didn't fill the application out any differently than the Canadian Tire application, but for some reason I got shot down by the latter.

I feel Canadian Tire and all companies that offer cards should take a look at how they accept potential cardholders. Why not call the individual if there are questions instead of just assuming the worst and ditching an applicant that could bring business?

I doubt if I will ever step foot in another Canadian Tire for a while or ever again. Come springtime I will be looking for a new bait shop to purchase my fishing equipment.

Thanks for nothing, Canadian Tire.

## Many reasons for vegetarian diet

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Eat your greens because they're good for you.

Being a vegetarian in a meat eaters' world is not as difficult as some imagine it to be.

Most of us are aware we should be trying to eat more healthfully. Fortunately, a wide assortment of meat replacements and supplements, almost identical to that of the real thing are available: veggie burgers, meatless wieners, veggie pepperoni, and the list goes on. There are even vegetarian cookbooks and restaurants available to please the finicky vegetarian palate.

I have been eating as a vegetarian for some nine years now. Many people ask, "What do you eat if you don't eat meat?"

My answer to this is "everything but meat."

Some people are still under the misconception that vegetarian diets are defi-

***I have been eating as a vegetarian for some nine years now.***

cient in supplying proper nutrition, but if done properly, they can be a very rewarding and healthy way of eating.

There are different types of vegetarianism. The first and strictest form is vegan. A vegan diet is limited to that of vegetable products only.

Then comes the lacto-vegetarian diet. Lacto-vegetarians allow themselves to venture as far as dairy animal products. Lacto-ovo vegetarians do the same, but also eat eggs and foods containing eggs.

Some people choose not to eat red meats, but opt for healthier choices such as chicken and fish.

There are a number of reasons for adopting a vegetarian diet, ranging through everything from health reasons, such as reducing fat intake, lowering cholesterol and improved digestion, to religion to personal beliefs. My own reasons are health and personal beliefs. Whatever the reason, it is not something to be taken lightly.

If you are considering a vegetarian diet, consult a doctor, who may refer you to a nutritionist, to ensure you will be getting a properly balanced diet.

Some famous vegetarians include philosopher Plato, playwright William Shakespeare, writer Leo Tolstoy, scientist Albert Einstein, leader Mahatma Gandhi and singer Madonna.

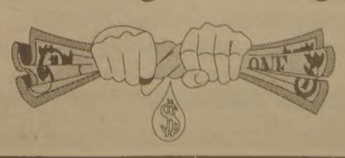
Although a vegetarian diet may not be suitable for everyone, increasing vegetable intake with meals helps in digestion, especially with meat.

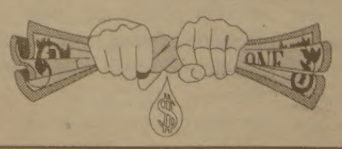

# ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!

Feb. 11 is the last day to withdraw from SAC's Student Insurance plan.

You can get the opt-out form at any of the SAC offices in all three Niagara College campuses and receive **$39.84.**

Don't forget to bring proof that you are already covered under a drug plan with you!






## How much for this cat?

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

I've been talking it over with my cat, and I think it's high time he supported me for a while.

I know this is a pipe dream for a lot of people and given that my cat isn't smart enough to do a UPS commercial, much less learn all the choreography to make it big at Cat-Chow, his prospects in the world of high-finance kitties are limited.

What he has in his favour though is name recognition. Not that Genghis Kahn is a great name, or even one that suits him, but it is one that people know, and that opens the door to product licensing, and that is where the real money is anyway.

Just ask Walt. He knows.

Genghis is a blue-eyed half Siamese cat. OK, he's also cross-eyed and his ears and nose are kind of chewed up, but he'd still be a cuter plush toy than those Tele-Tubbies, and look how many of those people buy. He's a perfect model for a lack-of-action figure; no judo-chop-action or kung-fu-grip for him. Just leave him in the box for 20 years and wait for him to be worth something.

His real potential though, is in the video game market.

Imagine tracking Genghis through the neighbourhood, avoiding his own shadow and trying to bust open garbage bags before the raccoons get them. See *him collecting crinkly wrappers to leave at the back* door. Watch out for Molly, the neighbour's schnauzer. If she barks, it sends Genghis running 40 feet up a tree and he has to stay there for three days.

There is a bonus round while the owner tries to figure out where the cat went and you can manoeuvre her through the crawl space under the house. Dodge spiders, identify the mystery items and try to figure out what that smell is . . . if you dare. Earn extra points by leaving the crawl space without any of it on you.

Move to the next level: the flea bath of doom.

Try to wriggle Genghis free before he hits the water. His legs are being held so it's tricky. You can use the claws, but be careful. If the door is closed and he can't escape, things can get really ugly, really quickly. Bonus points if you take out an eye.

Then comes the obnoxious noise round. Cruise with Genghis through the neighbourhood at night, yowling as though he'd taken a cactus suppository. Dodge the flying housewares while he makes his way home. Once there, yowl louder. The louder you yowl, the quicker someone will come to open the door. When your liberator does, run away. The game starts again.

Genghis will be bigger than Morris.

I can hear the phone ringing now. I bet it's Sega.

**To advertise in the Niagara News call 735-2211 Ext. 7748**

# BETTER LIVING

# Making workers aware on job

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

George Simpson's food was puréed for him, since he couldn't swallow and he had no salivary glands. He was a part of the nine per cent of people who develop work-related cancer.

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) has introduced a work-related disease awareness campaign now criss-crossing Ontario to highlight the toxic and deadly substances workers are exposed to on the job.

"There are literally thousands of chemicals out there; where you work you need to worry," says Wayne Samuelson, president of the OFL at the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) hall in St. Catharines on Feb. 1.

Among the panel members trying to make the public more aware of unsafe working conditions were Keith McMillan, president of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers unions in Sarnia, Ed Gould, president of the St. Catharines Labour Council, Jean Simpson, widow of the late George Simpson, and their daughter, Barb Millitt, of Sarnia.

Simpson had worked in a fibreglass plant for 36 years in Sarnia, and was exposed, along with many other families in the community, to high levels of asbestos, fibreglass and silica.

Workers are exposed on the job to more than 70,000 chemicals, which are carried into their cars, into their homes and to their families.

"When we were kids, we would step on the fibreglass that had gone into the carpet somehow. It felt like glass going into your foot," says Millitt.

An OFL press release recounts a 1989 case of a 14-year-old boy who died from an asbestos-related cancer. Investigations determined his father had worked in an iron castings division of an engine block plant in Sarnia where there were high levels of asbestos. The chemicals were on his clothes and thus exposed people at home to those same chemicals.

About 60 different jobs have been identified as posing an increased cancer risk to the people performing them. Studies show those working in the auto industry are contracting stomach cancers. Electrical workers are contracting brain cancer and leukemia. Dry cleaners are contracting digestive tract cancers, and the list goes on.

"If you're working in an office, and you're in a room with computers, with all the radiation moving around the room, you can get brain cancer, so you can get it anywhere," says Samuelson.

The International Agency for Research of Cancer has identified 24 substances that cause lung cancer. Twenty-three known causes of lung cancer are related to industry and yet there is more attention being focused on the 24th substance — tobacco. These diseases can be prevented in workplaces by educating workers on the means of protecting themselves from these chemicals.

"Our job is to give workers a sense of what they can do themselves and for them to understand the chemicals they're using," says McMillan.

The Ontario government doesn't demand that employers test the effects of substances before introducing them in the work environment. It takes years for many job-related diseases to show themselves and be diagnosed.

The occupational health clinics for Ontario workers are a team that will do a walk-through tour of the workplace. They will point out any health and safety problems and present them to the firm's joint health and safety committee.

CAW local activists are helping to spread the word by ensuring community support, making sure the public knows about the hazardous waste from workplaces. This is an activity of the environmental activists.

As Millitt ended her emotional speech, she looked up and told the room, "Just because you can't see something, it doesn't mean that it's not there. Any one of us can become the victim."

# Walking in mall beneficial to all

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

It's too cold to walk outside; it's unsafe too. Walking inside a building is a wiser plan, said Julie Beaver, manager of Health Wise.

"The mall (Seaway) is open Monday to Friday at 6:30 a.m. People who want to exercise can come in and walk," said Beaver.

To walk one mile, walkers need to walk twice around the inside of the Seaway Mall in Welland.

"We have anywhere from 100 to 300 walkers in the mall."

To participate in the walks, those interested may register at Health Wise inside the mall by filling out a basic background information form; however, it is not necessary to register.

There are prizes available for walking 100 miles.

"We (Health Wise) give people a card that's a part of the 100 Mile Club. We mark for every mile they walk. If they walk 10 miles, they are able to win a free T-shirt, mug or a bottle of water. Plus the card helps the walkers keep track of how much walking they do."

***'. . . during the winter I walk inside.'***
***— DomenicMaddalena***

Health Wise is the official sponsor of the 100 Mile Club. Health Wise opens at 8 a.m. Walkers are entitled to a gift at the end of 100 miles, but may only receive one a year.

The program began more than two years ago.

"I think this is very important for people," said Beaver. "Most of our walkers are seniors and, especially in the winter, there's no place for people to walk. It's not safe. Most people drop off their fitness plans in the winter. This is a way for people to keep up their plans."

Domenic Maddalena, a mall walker, of Welland, said he likes to walk inside the mall because it's good exercise and a place to visit with other seniors.

"When it's really nice I like to walk outside, but most of the time during the winter I walk inside," he said.

"I'm retired. I like to get some exercise so I come over here."


37th annual
Welland Winter Carnival

**Feb. 12**
*Pancake Breakfast*
Welland Arena
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Arts and Crafts Show & Sale
Seaway Mall
Family Free Skating
Welland Youth Arena
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Feb. 13**
Snowmobile Parade
12:00 noon
Lincoln Centre Mall to Welland Arena
Free Pancake Breakfast
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Welland Arena
Girls Hockey
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pony Rides
*11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*
Welland Figure Skating Club Ice Show
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Snowmobiling Rides
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Log Sawing
2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Children's Skating Races
3:00 p.m.

**Feb. 20**
French Canadian Carnival Day
9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Club Richelieu
565 River Rd.
Admission $3, children under 12, free

**Feb. 27**
*Help A Child Smile*
Hockey Game
Buffalo Sabres alumni vs. Team Welland
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Welland Main Arena
Tickets $5

For information regarding any of the Winter Carnival Events, call Welland Community Services at 732-1414 or Welland Recretion & Leisure at 732-7300

Compliments of the Niagara News


# Contest helps motivate smokers to quit

By VICKI HARTLEN
Staff Writer

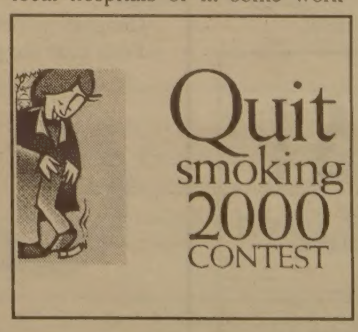
Smokers! Thinking of quitting? Want a Caribbean cruise? The Quit Smoking 2000 Contest may be the incentive you need.

***'We're trying to encourage smokers to quit.'***
***— Sharon Lawler***

The government-supported provincewide contest costs nothing to enter. Smokers wishing to quit just have to follow the simple three-step plan found in the contest information pamphlet.

"We're trying to encourage smokers to quit," said Sharon Lawler, tobacco use prevention health promoter with the Regional Niagara Public Health Department. "We have had an excellent public response."

The first step of the contest is finding two non-smoking buddies to encourage the smoker's efforts and verify he or she did quit smoking. The next step is to enter the contest by filling out and returning the pamphlet, which can be found at the public health department, local hospitals or in some workplaces. The final step is to quit smoking by March 1.




"The contest acts as an external motivator," said Lawler. "We help smokers with the timing of their quit and incentives for quitting.

"A lot of smokers have chosen to participate because they want to quit smoking and they think now is the time," said Lawler. "We're receiving 20 to 25 calls a day. I try to phone each person who calls and see if they need any help or counselling."

After contestants mail in the completed pamphlet, their names are entered into a draw. "If their name is drawn then they stand a chance to win prizes, and so do their buddies," said Lawler.

Prizes in the contest include a Caribbean cruise for two, a diamond pendant necklace and many other items. Winners must prove they were smoke-free from March 1 to April 3. Assisting in that is a requirement to complete a carbon-monoxide test and a urine test, both of which can indicate if the person has had a cigarette. These will be used to ensure the honesty of the winner.

"Tobacco use is at one of its highest (levels), with approximately 45,000 people per year dying of tobacco-related causes," said Lawler, adding it is because of these statistics that the contest should be so important to the public.


**Calling All Bands**

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara that are interested in some FREE print publicity!

*"Riding the Riff IV,"* will be published March 24, 2000.

**Qualifications:**

- A local band/musician
- Available for a photo/interview ASAP
- Have released a CD prior to, or shortly after scheduled publication date of March 24, 2000
- $25 fee guarantees profile

Interested? Give us a call SPACE IS LIMITED!

The Niagara News publishes 5,000 papers and is produced by the Journalism-Print students of Niagara College, Welland. We are available at all our campus locations, Jumbo Video's, the Seaway Mall and 100 Avondale Stores throughout Niagara.

To register your band or for advertising information call 735-2211 Ext. 7748

# KIDS' VIEW

## Grade school students question politician

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

Children are taxpayers. Who would have thought?

MPP Peter Kormos visited Ross Public School on Feb. 2 and used current issues in Ontario to explain to the Grade 4 and 5 students what his job is.

"I represent you just as I represent your parents," said Kormos, a New Democrat Party (NDP) member. "Even though you're not old enough to vote, you pay taxes, such as when you buy something, like a CD."

"You have a right to expect me to listen to what you have to say."

When asked what governments do to fulfil their responsibilities, students had various answers with the most common being, "they raise taxes."

That answer was clarified as students listed what services tax dollars pay for.

"Does anyone like paying taxes?" asked Kormos.

The children answered with a unanimous, enthusiastic "No!" indicating that even children pay attention to politics, or at least to what affects their parents.

Kormos used the teachers' strike over Bill 160 to explain to the children how sides are taken on an issue. "We want you to be the best-educated generation in the country, so we were against Bill 160. We were on the teachers' side."

The Welland MPP used the issue of outlawing panhandling and the work of squeegee kids to explain his party's stand on certain issues.

MPP Peter Kormos visited with the Grades 4 and 5 students from Ross Public School on Feb. 2, to help them learn about politics and government as part of the new curriculum.

**Photo by Tara Purpura**

The children were asked what argument the NDP party would have posed. Grade 5 student Deborah Shaver, 11, accurately answered: "How are they going to enforce it? Police officers have other things to do."

With the NDP's stand against the squeegee law, the students discussed the issue.

Kormos said, "Let's talk about why people are squeegee kids rather than make it illegal."

"You should put them in shelters so they could find a house, find a job," said Kristen Rocca, a 10-year-old fifth grade student.

Kormos explained the importance of allowing people to have different points of view on issues.

"He argues about laws," answered Carlyn Rhamey, 9, a Grade 4 student, when asked what Kormos's job entailed.

"When I'm up there in Queen's Park with 102 other politicians who sit around talking about what it means being poor or having trouble paying taxes, I'm not convinced they know what's going on," Kormos said.

He said he believes he keeps his "feet on the ground" by talking to the people he represents, which include the students at Ross Public School.

"He makes decisions and speaks for the people in Welland," said Nicole Reid, 10, a fifth grade student.

Kormos's visit is part of their new curriculum involving Canadian government.

"*I learned about how important politics are. I never knew why and I learned that people have to be heard,*" said Brad Moar, 9, a Grade 4 student.

## Celebrity cook-off launches fund-raiser for March Drive

### *2000 volunteer canvassers to aid Kidney Foundation*

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Soon you can test your tastebuds at The Red Hot Chili Peppers in St. Catharines.

The Niagara District Chapter of The Kidney Foundation of Canada is kicking off its March Drive with the foundation's annual Media/Celebrity Chili Cook-off on Feb. 25.

Media chefs' chili recipes will be tested by celebrity judges based on criteria like taste, heat and texture.

The cook-off is held to spread the word on the March Drive in which more than 2,000 volunteer canvassers will be knocking on Niagara's doors. Funds raised throughout the annual drive will support local patient services, education, advocacy and organ donor awareness programs.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada's research programs contribute to improving the quality of life and treatment of patients. Since 1964 the foundation has helped millions of Canadians suffering from kidney failure and related disorders, such as high blood pressure, kidney stones, diabetes and urinary tract infections.

Today, kidney transplants are 85 per cent successful. Kidney stones are preventable and curable, and a drug that treats and prevents bladder cancer has been developed. These successes can be compared to only 30 years ago when people with kidney failure had little hope of survival and thousands of Canadians suffered from kidney-related disorders, such as kidney stones and bladder cancer.

The cook-off is from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Red Hot Chili Peppers, 1 St. Paul St. The public is invited to attend the event.

## *Kids 'n' crafts*

Kaila, Bayley and Ricky from the Preschool Two class at the Niagara College Child Care Centre are doing some creative pasting just in time for Valentine's Day.

**Photo by Jamie White**

# VALENTINES

## Shannon and Tony

By Shannon Mastaler

Tony and I met almost four years ago, and we instantly clicked. I thought he was funny and great to be around. Only months after we met, we became inseparable. He was, in my eyes, becoming one of my closest friends.

For the next three years we spent all of our spare time together. We talked about everything, shared our ideas and thoughts and made many memories together. We even talked to each other about our boyfriend and girlfriend problems (imagine that.)

Through all this — all the fun, all the bonding, all the experiences — it never once occurred to me that this wonderful person, whom I get along with better than anyone I've ever known, might be the man I would want to spend the rest of my life with.

Then, to my surprise, on a truly amazing day, we both, at the same time, realized that maybe we had been looking for the wrong things in each other. We realized that what we should have been looking for was actually a relationship. This seemed only natural, the next logical step. We were already best friends, we loved each other on that level and we both significantly believed that being best friends was at the root of all successful relationships. It seemed to be worth a try.

Well, this decision has turned out to be one of the best ones we've made. Having him as my boyfriend for over a year has made me happier than I have ever been. He surpasses all the expectations I ever had of him. He has proven to be the best thing I could ever have hoped for.

He makes me laugh. He understands me. He cares for me. He shows me love as I have never known it and, most important, we trust and respect each other on a level I didn't know existed.

He knows me like no one else, and what I cherish most, and always have, is our friendship. We can have fun together while doing absolutely nothing. We can spend endless hours talking about our day, about our dreams, or about trivial things like how comfy bean bag chairs are.

He is, at this point in my life, the person whom I see my future with, whom I want to spend forever with. I believe we were meant to be. I believe he is my other half.

I feel very lucky to be able to call my boyfriend my best friend. In fact, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to meet such a person and the chance to see a future in him. Friendship is what I think every relationship should be based on.

If being with that someone makes hours go by like seconds and months go by like days, if you feel truly happy with that someone, if that someone make you forget that everyone else in the world exists, then I believe you have what I know as true, everlasting and wonderful love.

Happy Valentine's Day.

## Dave and Beth

Despite the cold, sparks were flying during the fire drill on Jan. 20 at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Twenty-year-old Dave Giberson, a Computer Programming program student, lit the flame that started this relationship.

Beth Johnston, a 21-year old Educational Resources and Special Needs program student, was more than happy to accept the gesture.

These first-year students were in the pub when the fire drill alarm went off. Giberson had noticed Johnston inside already and when she moved next to him outside to avoid a snowball fight, Giberson offered her a light for her cigarette.

"We've spent every day together since," says Johnston, who said she "looks for honesty, good looks, humour and intelligence in a man."

Giberson says he likes Johnston because "she's sexy, smart and nice."

For their first Valentine's Day together, this duo is planning dinner at a nice restaurant.

## Bryan and Alicia

They spotted each other across the room during math class.

"I noticed her smiling at me so I smiled back," says 21-year-old Bryan Bonnar of his new girlfriend, Alicia Gibb, 19.

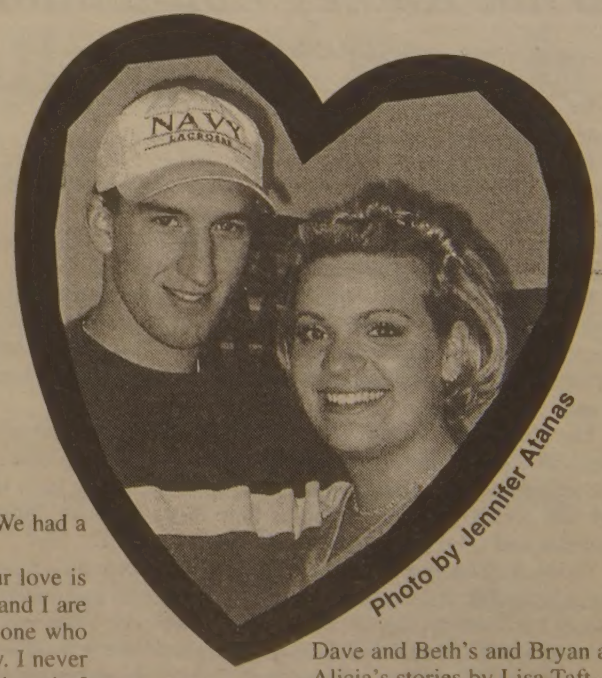
They are both Career and College Opportunities program students at the Welland campus of Niagara College.

This relatively new relationship was sparked just in time for Valentine's Day. They haven't made plans to celebrate the special day yet. They've only just had their first date. A group of friends went to a bar where the new couple took the opportunity to get to know each other better.

Gibb was first drawn to Bonnar because "he's nice." Bonnar says he "loved her smile."

The couple says they look for the same things in the opposite sex: kindness, caring and honesty.

## Tracey and Adam




By Tracey Allison

The past year has been one of the happiest of my life.

I met Adam Yacura last November. I was partying at residence. My best friend and I were "mingling" down the halls.

We came across Adam and his roommate. All of us hung out and had lots of fun, so we exchanged phone numbers.

Over the next three months we hung out all the time and were becoming good friends. Then it all changed in one day.

He phoned and asked me out for dinner. I was confused. I wasn't sure if it was a date or not, but I just went with it. We had a wonderful time , just the two of us. We've been together from that moment on.

I am so thankful our friendship grew into a relationship. He is one of my best friends and makes me very happy. Our love is strong, and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. I feel blessed to have such an amazing man in my life. Adam and I are perfect together. We know eachother very well and make life a better place for each other. I am greatful to have someone who treats me so well and to have a loving relationship filled with honesty, trust, respect, and two hearts full of love and joy. I never imagined that the happiness I feel today would ever really exist, and I thank God for answering my prayers. I never thought I would find a good boyfriend, and now I have the best.

I love you. Happy Valentine's Day.

Dave and Beth's and Bryan and Alicia's stories by Lisa Taft.

# CUPID'S ARROW

## Relationships overcome great distances

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

Love can survive even great distances.

It's hard to imagine finding love and then having to leave it. This time of year couldn't be harder for Amanda Diletti, 20, a second-year Arts and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production student from Hamilton, Ont.

It has only been a short time since Diletti met her boyfriend Mardi Bennett, 25, of Columbus, Tex. They met in November and have become "great friends," said Diletti.

"The bond grows with each day."

Diletti said school might have actually played a little role in bringing her and Bennett together. "While doing some research for school on the Net I was instantly messaged by a surprisingly humorous person. I have met a couple friends over the Net, but I found something different and unique in Mardi's friendship."

The relationship became stronger as they communicated and kept in touch "religiously" via e-mail and occasional chats on the Internet, said Diletti. The real connection blossomed when the two voices met, Diletti said, adding, "I was nervous when he called but I was put at ease because he was the same person I felt comfortable with on screen."

Understanding and acknowledging the way society perceives such relationships, Diletti said at first she questioned the things occurring around her and even wondered, as others do: "Is this right? Am I sick?"

"The first thing I thought when he asked if he could come see me was 'eww, I'm one of them,' meaning one of those falling for someone on the Net kind of pathetic people, but I put that aside. You've got to try everything once and I didn't see that I had anything to lose. It turned out to be amazing."

With each phone call, Diletti said, she learned more and more about Bennett, a person whom she felt "very blessed to have met."

As the relationship progressed and feelings of friendship began to turn to love, Diletti said she felt a meeting was necessary. "I loved the amazing friendship and relationship which we already shared, but I had to put a face to the heart I loved so much."

The couple planned a meeting during the Christmas holidays, and Diletti said she eagerly anticipated the time they would spend together.

"I wasn't worried about the whole psychotic factor because I had spoken to his entire family and they were extremely nice, so that brought comfort to the situation."

The day of the meeting, Dec. 27, was "very nerve-racking," but "extremely exciting," said Diletti.

"It was a moment right out of a movie. My friend and I picked him up at the airport. When I finally saw him my heart was put to ease, and since that moment our love for each other became better with each moment."

Bonnet's visit was brief, said Diletti, but worth any risk imaginable. "The time we spent together, although short, was indescribable. When it was time for him to leave my heart did break, but I knew I had to appreciate every memory we exchanged."

It has been three months since Diletti first met the love of her life, but only one since she has been without his presence, physically.

Diletti said Valentine's Day will be difficult because she can't do the traditional things to mark the day with her boyfriend, but she has faith that her love can overcome any barrier. In the end, Diletti said she is happy she followed her heart and looks forward to what the future has to hold.

"We celebrate each day as if it were Valentine's Day. We found love in an unexpected place, but it's in these places where we find the best."

## Love makes anything possible

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

For some, long-distance relationships can tear a couple apart; for others, it only makes them stronger.

Lora Landriault, 19, of Orangeville, Ont., goes to Durham College in Oshawa, and has "been with" her boyfriend, Marco, for over two years.

She said their relationship consists of phone calls, e-mails, and letters. "Marco lives in San Jose, Calif."

"Valentine's Day is one of the hardest occasions," she said, "although all occasions are pretty tough."

Landriault said, at first, they weren't sure how being in a relationship over thousands of miles would work, but they decided it was worth giving it a try.

"It's really difficult, and it gets pretty frustrating. Over the summer, we had some problems, but I think the root of all that was the frustrations of not being able to see each other. We made it through."

She said when you love someone, anything is possible. "I see him three or four times a year, and I hate the distance, but it's something we have to do until I am done college."

Landriault said it wouldn't be worth it if she didn't see potential in her boyfriend. "I know Marco is a big part of my future. That's why I am putting myself through all this long-distance torture."

She said she plans to visit him in California at the end of the month. "Flying there gets pretty expensive, but we usually share the cost, so it makes it a little easier."

She said she plans to eventually move to California. "That decision will be one I will have to think more about when the time comes closer, but I do see it happening," she said. "The only thing stopping me is the fact that my family and friends are all here in Ontario. It will be very hard moving so far away. My life is here, but my future is in California.

"Marco makes me very happy. I love him, and I want to spend my future with him. It just makes it so hard when we live so far away."

Landriault said the most important lesson she has learned from her experience with Marco is that "sometimes things are tough, and you have to work for them. I think if there is something you really want in life, sometimes you have to make sacrifices. Moving to California is one of them I have to make."

Landriault said she will spend this Valentine's Day alone, probably talking to Marco on the phone. "When holidays come, it makes me realize how much I really need him in my life," she said. " It makes me realize how important he is to me, how much I love him."

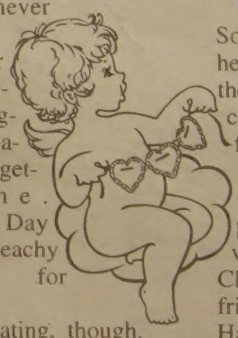
## *Let Cupid shoot his arrow at you*

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

Column

A dear friend of mine once told me "you always stumble upon love in the most unexpected, odd places." I listened to her words of wisdom but, honestly, really never believed it.

Waiting for love or desperately longing for a relationship, can get tiresome. Valentine's Day never is a peachy celebration for them.



It is fascinating, though. My friend did a miraculous thing: she predicted my future. I stumbled upon the person who makes me laugh on a daily basis and continues to make me very happy every day.

When you stop dreaming and wake up to reality, neat things do happen. You may start tripping over a few hearts in the process, as love begins to unfold.

My message is simple and common. Believe in Cupid. Let him do the matchmaking.

He's not always precise. Sometimes his arrow is off and he may make a mistake now and then, but when he really aims correctly, the greatest person falls into your arms.

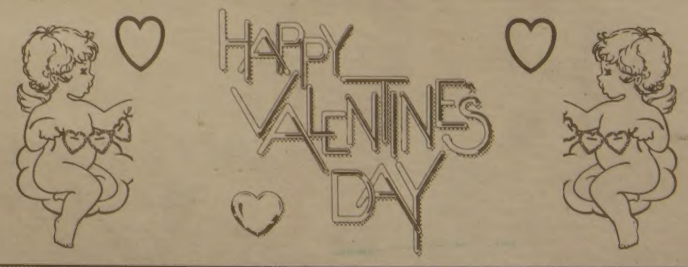
Be patient. He isn't out only on Valentine's Day bringing people together. He works wonders with Santa Claus on Christmas and he's even best friends with cute little fairies on Halloween.

Thank you, Cupid!

Niagara College offers students a wide variety of dental services available at minimal cost.

To book an appointment call

905-735-2211 ext. 7758




Take advantage of Welland campus' Child Care Centre

Children from three months to five years af age are accepted.

For more information call 905-735-2211

# Love is all around

Comfy teddy bears and pillow hearts on display at Hallmark in Niagara Square, Niagara Falls.

Yummy treats fpr your sweetie!

Love grows stronger through the years.

No one can resist chocolates onValentine's Day at Laura Secord in the Niagara Square, Niagara Falls.

Roses await for sweethearts at Creations by Helen in St. Catharines.

*Photos by Mandi Speelman and Natsuko Tamura*

# PERSPECTIVES

## Declarations of love expressed

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer
Column

Valentine's Day is a time to show love to special people in your life.

That's not the concept of Valentine's Day in my country though.

Believe it or not, we don't exchange cards and presents in Japan.

It's the day for women to confess their love to men with gifts of chocolates.

It's the day for girls who have been holding their feelings inside to express them.

It's the day you can be on top of the world or at the end of the world if your decalarations of love fall on deaf ears.

Valentine's Day is indeed an important day for Japanese girls in love.

In order to get their targeted guys successfully, girls start preparing a month ahead for the day — the best scenario, the best presents, the best looks.

Guys at school are under pressure as to who'll get the most or from whom. Geeks are threatened by going home with no chocolates and they usually end up getting one from mom in sympathy.

In the workplace, however, it is the rule of thumb that chocolates

Sweet Somethings

are given to male colleagues and bosses just to be nice. These gifts are not expressions of strong feelings for these men.

You may ask, "Why do only women do that?" Is it a traditional practice of gender role in Japan?

No. We do want a return.

Our give-and-take society has created White Day a month later, March 14.

On that day, women get gifts, customarily candies, from men.

Most of the time, men buy presents, as many as they got on Valentine's Day from women, no matter how they feel about the women.

The Japanese version of Valentine's Day is truly a fun event, but seems to me to be more weighted on the marketing side of benefits.

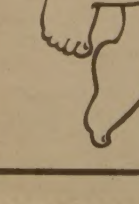
I prefer the traditional idea of Valentine's Day in North America.

It would be nice if guys could also express their feelings to girls, not the one-way approach. Sending cards and small gifts to people you really care about is worth more than getting a bunch of artificially sweet chocolates with no love.

Japanese people don't show love as much as people in Canada or the rest of North America. Japanese people usually don't say "I love you," and some think it's obscene to kiss or hug in public. Even family members don't do that.

In fact, I believe they don't know how to show affection. It's just a notion that has recently seeped into our society.

## Ex-girlfriends a touchy subject



By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer
Column

Trying to think of an interesting topic concerning love and relationships for this column, I turned to my trusty Cosmopolitan magazine, this month's edition.

I flipped through article upon article offering sage advice trying to help women satisfy their boyfriends or accounts of the most incredibly romantic love stories ever told.

To tell you the truth, nothing really taught me anything I hadn't already heard or knew myself.

Everything was from a woman's point of view. Ladies telling ladies what men want, like and dislike. Nothing was grabbing my attention until I stumbled across the page entitled "His Point of View." To my surprise, the topic was focusing on the dreaded, always uncomfortable, always avoided, rarely spoken of ex-girlfriend.

*'Ode to his exes, give these girls credit.'*

The article was entitled "Why you shouldn't hate his ex-girlfriend." What? Should we? Who knows why, but we just do. It's a girl thing.

The article describes four typical ex-girlfriend "types" and explains how we, the present girlfriend, benefit from the things his ex-girlfriends may have taught our boyfriends. Good or bad, these experiences in relationships do help people learn, even our trusty guys.

The ex continues to be a touchy subject with a woman but not so touchy with guys. The article was pretty knowledgeable. A line in it states, "Ode to his exes, give these girls credit."

OK, so I'll swallow my pride and, yes, realize that makes sense.

During this loving time of year, while you're appreciating how fabulous your guy is, try to remember that behind each great guy there's a great girl and someone was standing behind him at some point in time before you.


NIGH'S SWEET SHOP

3757 Netherby Rd., Stevensville, Ont.

382—2511

ExtendedValentine'sHours
February 10 - 14th
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Unde"Nigh"ably delicious chocolate


## From the Fishbowl

Along with promoting their new FM station, 90.1, CRNC, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program students (from left), Sharon Sturgeon, 21, Shannon Aishford, 20, and Wendy Gennings, 20, would like to say Happy Valentine's Day.

Photo by Lisa Taft

# FROM THE HEART

## Holidays have a history behind them

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer
Column

Every holiday has a story behind it. More often than not, the way we celebrate has nothing to do with the original purpose of the event.

Take Christmas. Half the people who celebrate aren't religious. It's Jesus' birthday but, for some reason, commercialism has taken over. Easter too. Children grow up thinking that Easter is all about eggs, bunnies and chocolate. Jesus died and then rose again, or so the story goes.

I have a hard time with Christmas. I try not to offend anyone at that time of year and the same goes with all the other religious holidays. I'm not a very religious person. Christmas for me isn't a celebration of a birth; it's more the spirit of giving. But I try.

Valentine's Day, however, is a holiday I can appreciate for what it's worth. Some people may know the story behind the celebration and some may not. I feel better about celebrating now that I know the story.

It started with a man named Valentine. He was living in a time when the rulers of the land were forcing everyone to believe in mythical gods and figures. Christianity wasn't allowed and people caught preaching anything other than mythology were jailed or they had their heads cut off.

Although Valentine wasn't a Christian, he didn't think that anyone should be told what he or she should or shouldn't believe. He began to speak out against mythology and was encouraging people to believe whatever they wanted. When the rulers heard about this, they had Valentine sent to jail.

It was during this time in prison when Valentine gave his life to Christ and began preaching the word of God to the Christian prisoners. His name had now become St. Valentine.

When word got out about what he was doing, the rulers ordered Valentine's head be cut off. In the time he spent in prison before he was beheaded, St. Valentine wasn't allowed any visitors. He was not allowed to see any of his family or friends.

Instead, St. Valentine sent messages to his family on flower petals he had picked through the bars of his cell window. He would send the messages by his family pigeons to his loved ones back home. The notes would read, "Remember your Valentine" and "I love you."

This is the story as I have come to understand it. You get the gist of it anyway.

Today, on Valentine's Day, we still send messages to our loved ones to let them know how much we care. This is a story and a holiday I feel good celebrating because I do it for the right reasons.

## Where did Valentine's Day originate?

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer
Column

Valentine's Day is a time for friends, family and lovers, but where did it all begin?

Various historians and researchers believe Valentine's Day began in different ways.

Some trace it to an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia. Other experts connect the event with one or more saints of the early Christian church.

Still others link it with an old English belief that birds choose their mates on Feb. 14.

Valentine's Day probably came from a combination of the three sources, plus the belief that spring is a time for lovers.

The ancient Romans held the festival of Lupercalia on Feb. 15 to ensure protection from wolves.

During this celebration, young men struck people with strips of animal hide. Women took the blows because they thought whipping made them more fertile.

Many writers link the festival of Lupercalia with Valentine's Day because of the similar date and connection with fertility.

The early Christian church had at least two saints named Valentine.

According to one story, the Roman emperor Claudius II, in the AD 200s, forbade young men to marry because the emperor thought single men made better soldiers.

A priest named Valentine disobeyed the emperor's orders and secretly married young couples.

Another story says Valentine was an early Christian who made friends with many children.

The Romans imprisoned him because he refused to worship their gods.

The children missed Valentine and tossed loving notes between the bars of his cell window.

This tale may explain why people exchange messages on Valentine's Day.

Also, many stories say that Valentine was executed on Feb. 14, 269 AD.

In 496 AD, Saint Pope Gelasius I named *Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day.*

Regardless of the origins of this festive occasion, Valentine's Day goes beyond the chocolate hearts, fresh flowers, lace-trimmed cards and fat, winged child that is called Cupid.

It is the one day of the year when people rightfully display their affection to those around them.

Although Feb. 14 is a designated day for love and affection, perhaps it should be something people strive for every day of their lives.

*To Kelly,*
*On this special day, we just wanted you to hear how much you are loved* ***every*** *day of the year!*
*Love you, Mom & Dad*

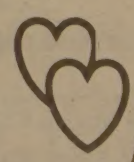
*Dear Jeannie,*
*This will be a special Valentine's Day for us. I hope to celebrate many more with you. Although I don't need a special day to tell you I love you, I will use this day to emphasize it.*
*Happy 1st Valentine's Day*
*Love, Mark*

*To My Sweetheart,*
*Some women don't need flowers, candy or candlelight dinners on Valentine's Day. Please be advised that I am not one of them.*
*From Soft Lips*

*Jennifer,*
*I saw Lisa at the Glendale Campus. Happy Valentine's Day. It's our first Valentine's Day. It's special and so are you. Smell the roses! Yeah!*
*Luv, Jon*

***Dearest Honey,***
***Happy FIRST Valentine's Day!***
***I hope we can celebrate NEXT Valentine's Day together! I love you.***
***Love your lovely, NOT OLD girl***

***Happy Valentine's Day Tanya***
***Love, Kevin***



*To Kimberlyn,*
*So many of our smiles... begin with you!*
*Happy Valentine's Day!*
*Love Mom & Dad*

*To my family,*
*Happy Valentine's Day from Canada!*
*Love Natsuko*

# PROFILE

# Future means a lifetime of possibilities

## *Arcaro proves life is what you put into it*

**By SHANNON DEARY**
**Staff Writer**

Gino Arcaro, 42, of Port Colborne, has proven life is full of possibilities.

Arcaro is the co-ordinator of the School of Justice Studies' Police Foundations program and the Law and Security Administration program.

He has been the program co-ordinator since December 1998 and has been teaching at Niagara College for the past 11 years.

Arcaro started his law enforcement life at 18, when he was hired by the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP) in the Uniform Branch, doing patrols. He did this for nine years before being promoted to the Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB) in the detective office.

"In that branch, I investigated all sorts of criminal offences, from murders, robberies, sexual assaults and all sorts of major crimes," said Arcaro.

He worked for the NRP for 15 years before applying to Niagara College.

"When I was in high school, I always had a modest interest in policing," explained Arcaro. "I was always fascinated in what policing was and what it took to be successful. The combination of skills is what really attracted me. I never thought I'd be a teacher. It just came to me one day and I wanted to try it. I wanted to teach what I had experienced."

Arcaro said he teaches various police procedures throughout the course and has a few main objectives that he tries to get across to the students.

"I try to impress upon (students) how much actual knowledge is needed, plus the combined personal characteristics that are needed, and the consequences of not doing your job," said Arcaro. "This is a very, very, very demanding occupation."

Arcaro has been a part of the football world since 1976, contributing all of his time strictly on a volunteer basis.

"Volunteer work is big in the police force. It's something that is very significant in the hiring process," said Arcaro. In 1997, Arcaro organized a non-profit football team called the Niagara Colts.

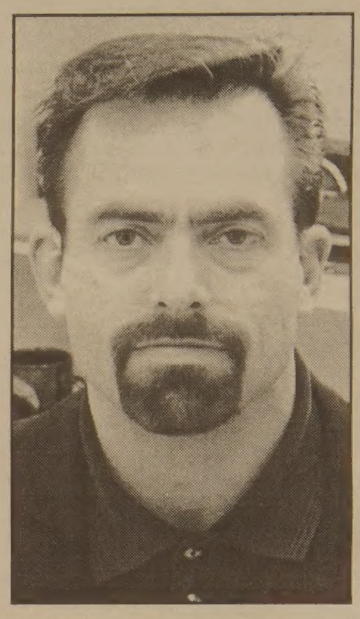
> ***'I was always fascinated in what policing was and what it took to be successful.'***

"I founded the team, I organized it (and) set up volunteers for it, and I am currently the head coach."

He said the team is for high school students who want to develop their abilities and to have access to recruiting services.

"We have a very extensive network of coaches from the States. We invite them to our games and practices, and they evaluate our players." He said he also films the games and sends them to universities' team coaches for evaluation.

"The amount of hours people are putting into the Niagara Colts year round is countless, and it is tremendous to see how many players are getting scholarships. We're very proud, and the team has received a lot of recognition across North America," said Arcaro.



Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator for School of Justice Studies' Police Foundations program and the Law and Security Administration program.
**Photo by Shannon Deary**

In 1998, Arcaro nominated one of his players, Tom Denison, of Beamsville, for a segment on amateur athletes, to be published in Sports Illustrated. Denison had thrown 836 yards with eight touchdowns and received international publicity.

Eight weeks later, the achievements of another player from his high school team, Boramy Seng, from Hill Park High in Hamilton, were published in Sports Illustrated. Seng immigrated from Cambodia in elementary school and has always been "very shy," said Arcaro. In his rookie year, Seng was a running back and rushed 369 yards and scored 42 points. It was another accomplishment for Arcaro to hang on his wall.

Arcaro said he had to take many steps along his path to success.

"There wasn't just one step," said Arcaro "I was lucky to be around teachers at the Ontario Police College who impressed upon me that it was a daily step-by-step process, with no quick shortcuts. I worked in an era of older officers, and they impressed upon me about the degree of academic success combined with daily performance."

> ***'A lot of people didn't have the same opportunities that I had.'***

Arcaro said his biggest influence was his father, who told him that a "tireless work ethic is the single strongest influence you can ask for."

Arcaro said he experienced "tremendous benefits" through sports. He said he started playing minor league football when he was in Grade 5.

"A lot of people didn't have the same opportunities that I had," explains Arcaro. Over two decades, Arcaro said he attended over 200 seminars and clinics with top coaches.

"Learning is one of my top steps in both football and teaching," said Arcaro. He said his final step was physical fitness.

"It's just as important as any other aspect, and a major step for both football and policing," said Arcaro.

Arcaro said he had some downfalls along the way, but didn't let them get to him.

"Everyone makes unintentional mistakes, or judgmental mistakes. Whatever problems you face, you solve them." It took him three to five years to fully grasp and understand how to apply the laws and procedures.

Arcaro has written and published 11 textbooks, used across Canada for police training, procedures and investigations. Criminal Investigation 3rd Edition, Basic Police Procedure 2nd Edition, and Law Enforcement Report Writing are his three best policing books, said Arcaro.

He also wrote a football book about an offence he designed called J-Gun No Huddle Offence. He said 23 American high school coaches use his book, and the strategies add 44 points on average to a team. He said a publishing company in Chicago is publishing a 500-page book all about his "system" later this year.

Arcaro also writes monthly articles for Blue Line Magazine, Canada's largest police magazine. He has written over 70 articles since 1992, translating case law decisions. He said he has developed a lot of contacts with officers all over the country who reply to his articles with questions.

> ***'After I'm done and get my master's degree, I intend on applying at Brock for the PhD program, hopefully sometime in 2001.'***

However, Arcaro doesn't stop here. He has future plans that will further his success. He is now enrolled at Brock University and is halfway to getting his master of education degree.

"After I'm done and get my master's degree, I intend on applying at Brock for the Ph.D. program, hopefully sometime in 2001."

Irma Cain, counselling secretary at Niagara College's Welland campus, poses with an enticing display of cookies, flowers and a fine china tea set on Cookie Day, Feb. 3.
**Photo by Mike Dilts**

**Calling All Bands**

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara that are interested in some FREE print publicity!

*"Riding the Riff IV,"* will be published March 24, 2000.

If your band has released a CD, or are about to, you'll want to be in this popular college edition.

It's a first come basis! We'll need to condust an interview and take a photo so don't wait.

You must purchase a 1/2 page ad at a special price for this collectors edition.

The Niagara News publishes 5,000 papers, and is produced by the Journalism-Print students of Niagara College, Welland.
We are available at all our campus locations, Jumbo Video's, the Seaway Mall and over 100 Avondale Stores throughout Niagara.

To register your band or for advertising information call 735-2211 Ext. 7748

Did you buy your sweetie something for Valentine's Day?

# PROFILE

# Woman, 32, former secretary, travels from Yukon to become GIS technician

## *Voice of Niagara College reaches the Yukon*

**By CASSANDRA SIMONS**
**Staff Writer**

She moved across the continent from the Yukon to Ontario to go to school.

The 32-year-old secretary first heard about the Native Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program, delivered at Six Nations PolyTech through Niagara College, while at work.

Gwen Wally left her family in Teslin, Yukon, a week before classes started in August 1998.

***'It was a damn tough year.'***

"After reading over a brochure about the program that came to my office (First Nations Land Resources), my family and I discussed my moving and decided my moving was what I should do," said Wally.

She said she had always had an interest in computers and, because of working in land resources, she had "a better knowledge of what was needed."

She moved to Ontario with no idea where she was going to live or how.

"When I flew into Toronto I didn't even know how to get to Brantford. That in itself was an experience."

After being in Ontario for a week, she said, she was too lonely, "so my husband, brother, two children and my granny packed and moved here to be with me."

"My children loved being in Ontario (although) it was tough for them and they had their moments. I thought if they could see what their mom went through for an education they'd know that it would be OK for them too. It showed them that there's a whole world out there."

She said being in Ontario made her and her family appreciate the Yukon more.

"Although it's very nice in Ontario, there's nowhere to go unless you drive way up north to spend some quiet, peaceful time with your family. I do remember after my children went to bed, my husband, Robert, and I would go sit on the front porch. He'd play his guitar softly and we'd listen to the crickets. That was really nice."

She said on the first day of the pre-session she knew where the school was, but "then when we got there it was just a little portable. Because the school was in Ontario, I'd thought it would've been bigger. Because it (the school) was so small, it wasn't overwhelming either."

***'At first when we moved to Six Nations, the people were kind of hostile because if you weren't from Six Nations you weren't one of them.'***

"At first when we moved to Six Nations, the people were kind of hostile because if you weren't from Six Nations you weren't one of them."

She said PolyTech had to step in and help her family get housing.

"Opportunity helps you make that kind of big decision to move. I knew the school was in a First Nations' atmosphere and my feeling was that my family would understand.

"I wanted to accomplish something just for myself. I knew that it was a major career opportunity. I mean, we're there (in the Yukon) and we've seen the Yukon sign more and more agreements so we have to learn about housing and land taxes. I needed to know the information about how to map things and how to do things more extensively."

She said her family made "lots of friends, like Grandma Hilda, a Six Nations Elder (we adopted her as Grandma), (and) Linda Stats, a Six Nations PolyTech director. Linda really helped a lot. She went way over limits to help us."

She said her fondest memories are being with Janet Finlay, Sheri Longboat, manager of Niagara College's Aboriginal Education Access, and Grandma Hilda.

"Sheri counselled me a lot. The people at Six Nations were great. They were always there for us, no matter what it meant that they'd have to put off in order to help us."

The worst memory was the heat, she said.

"The heat and humidity was almost unbearable. My granny even had to go home during March because of the heat."

She said if she could change anything about her time here she'd come down a month earlier, rather than just five days early.

Wally and her family moved back to the Yukon in November 1999.

She said if she could tell someone considering making the same kind of move, it would be to make sure that "you're psychologically and emotionally prepared. It's tough and very testing on your faith."

***'I wanted to accomplish something just for myself.'***

"I think I grew a lot spiritually. It (being in Ontario) really strengthened me and my faith and a lot of the time that's how we got through the year, on a prayer."

Wally is a GIS technician, a position which involves converting maps digitally and being able to analyze data and information statistically.

She said she'd consider moving back to Ontario if the "opportunity arose."

"It was a damn tough year. It was a challenge and I made it.

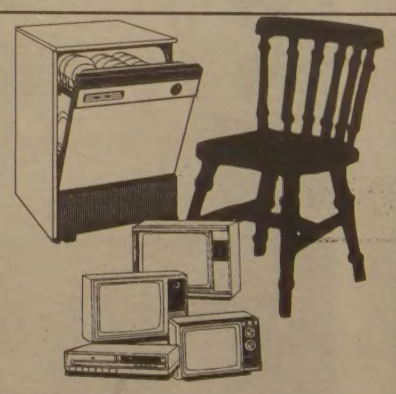
"We made some lifelong friendships, I believe, with some really beautiful people."

**Anne's Hair Salon**
For a quality Affordable Hair Cut Call
892-8144
To book an appointment today

**Don't Be *Pushed* into Abortion**
**TAKE CONTROL . . . CHOOSE LIFE**
Your complete resource centre on Pro-Life
• Books • Audio Tapes & Presentation Kits avail.
• Videos • Brochures
St. Catharines *RIGHT TO LIFE* Inc.
110 Geneva St., St. Catharines 684-7505

**PREMIERE MODELS**
. . . MAKE IT HAPPEN
*Grand Opening Open House*
Fri., Feb. 18/00 4-10 p.m.
Phone: 646-0166 Fax:646-0122
E-mail DAN55@HOME.COM
13 Secord Dr. Unit #3 St. Catharines
Sandra Schram, Owner/School Director
Dan Bernard, Owner/Operations Director

STUDENTS CHECK IT OUT!
**MINI SALVAGE**
1874 #20 Hwy Fonthill
Salvage Dealer Liquidator
Unit #10
PRE-OWNED FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS
OPEN WEEKENDS ONLY
Sat. 9 - 4 Sun. 10 - 4



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Energized chorale entrances audience with jazz

***Chorale infuses audience with the spirit of African music, celebrating Black History Month***

**By NATSUKO TAMURA**
**Staff Writer**

The spell of spiritual sounds captures the soul of music lovers.

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, the Toronto-based professional chamber choir captivated the audience at the Sean O'Sullivan Hall at Brock University as a kickoff event for Canada's Black History Month on Feb. 3.

Conducted by Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, the founder and artistic director of the chorale, the ensemble took the stage Thursday at 8 p.m. beginning with authentic classical songs.

Drawn to the world of black music, the crowd was overwhelmingly thrilled by the "dynamic" performance, which featured a crescendo of voices, subtle changes in tone and pitch, and "inspiring" rhythm and harmony.

Though its 19 members (eight are female) differ in colour, they all share the African musical energy and sing all genres of Afrocentric choral music, including gospel, classical, jazz, folk, blues and spiritual.

In the first session, they mostly performed classical gospel music.

To begin the second session, special guest Joe Sealy appeared on the stage. Montreal-born Sealy, a Juno-award winning jazz pianist and composer, spiced up the show with the sounds of saxophone and drums.

Under the red and blue spotlights, Sealy and his fellow performers took the crowd on a musical exploration of Africville, the oldest urban black community in Canada, where his ancestors lived. Three songs, including *Train's Comin'*, were played without the chorale.

Another highlight that sent shivers through the audience were the solo performances throughout the show that showcased the unique characteristics of each voice. The soloists' professionally trained, clear and solid voices consistently moved the audience to stand up and applaud the gifted ones on stage.

***Nathaniel Dett's described as 'a dedicated pursuer of the cause of Black music in North America.'***

As a lively and jazzy atmosphere developed, the level of excitement surged in the audience and musicians and lasted to the climax.

The show ended at 10:30 p.m. leaving the people with favourable impressions.

The ensemble was formed in 1998 in Toronto, and is named after a great African-Canadian composer in history, Nathaniel Dett.

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, a Toronto-based professional chamber choir, delivered an outstanding performance at the Sean O' Sullivan Hall, Brock University, in St. Catharines, as a kickoff event on Feb. 3 for Black History Month.

**Photo by Natsuko Tamura**

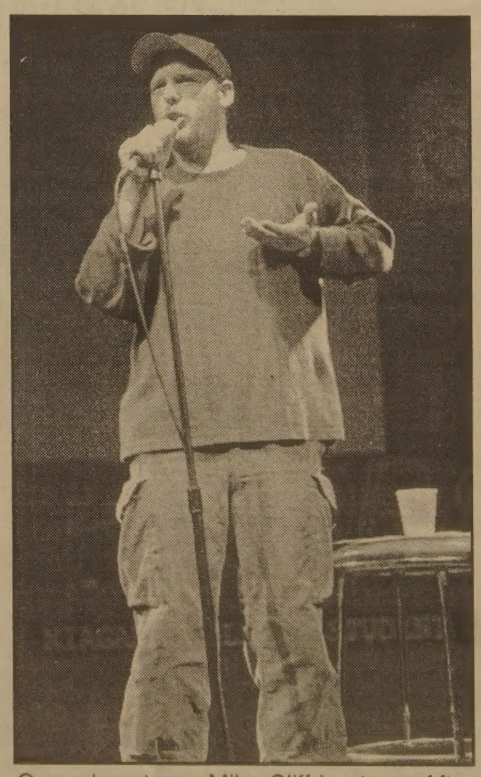
Born in Drummondville (now Niagara Falls, Ont.) in 1882, Dett devoted his life to promoting awareness of Afrocentric music. He's one of the leading black composers, described as "a dedicated pursuer of the cause of Black music in North America."

Inspired by Dett, the artistic director and conductor of the Chorale, Blyden-Taylor is committed to make Dett a household name in Canada by leading the revival of his chorale music.

"Canadians don't know him. It's time we honoured him (Dett)," he said in an interview.

Trinidad-born Blyden-Taylor moved to Canada in 1973 and served as music director for a variety of events. He's been making his musical reputation in Canada and the United States over the past decades.

## *Comedy, music bring After Hours to a laughing halt*



Comedy veteran Mike Cliff heats up After Hours on Feb. 2.

**Photo by Mark Garrett**

**By MARK GARRETT**
**Staff Writer**

Walking the Cliff at After Hours created a delightful evening for all.

The 12 beers for $12 flowed like water and the warmth of the pub set the stage for two comedians.

Mike Cliff, 38, of Niagara Falls, delivered a solid show at After Hours on Feb. 2.

Cliff shared some of his past experiences about camping.

"Never take hookers camping," says Cliff, because they complain. His jokes about being chased by a cop on a bike and advice about grocery shopping when drunk brought a laughing cheer from the crowd for his effort.

The 20-year veteran says, "The older you get the better you get."

"I don't do social or topical humour. As a comic you have to be aware of what's going on." Cliff says he's not a "nudist"; he's just "always ready."

Martina Gail, 29, of Toronto, was the other comedian to hit the stage. Her version of Canadian beer is "some kid from Thorold, puking to Ozzy." Her shaving accidents in the shower and love for pot got mixed reactions, ranging from laughs to groans from the crowd. Gail had recently been to England and wrote a song there, which she shared. It was about her experiences and relationships. Gail gave advice to the pub patrons, advice which can be followed everywhere.

"Wear a condom, Welland."

Martina Gail sings a song about relationships at After Hours.

**Photo by Mark Garrett**

# SEXUAL AWARNESS WEEK 2000

## February 21 - 25

### WELLAND CAMPUS

**Monday Feb 21st**
**11:30 - 1:30**
**"Get It On"**
**Roll for cash and prizes**

**Tuesday Feb 22nd**
**11:30 - 1:30**
**"Sexual Wheel of Fortune"**

**Wednesday Feb 23rd**
**11:00 - 1:30**
**Public Health Display in front of Libray**
**Cross Dressing Competition Pub**

**Thursday Feb 24th**
**11:00 - 1:30**
**School Nurse Display in front of Library**
**Crazy Sexual Games**

### GLENDALE CAMPUS

**Monday Feb 21st**
**11:30 - 1:00**
**"Dating Game"**
**In the Pub**

**Tuesday Feb 22nd**
**11:30 - 1:30**
**"Niagara Regional Health Unit"**
**Main Lower Hallway**

**Wednesday Feb 23rd**
**11:00 - 1:30**
**AIDS NIAGARA**
**Main Lower Hallway**

**Thursday Feb 24th**
**11:00 - 1:30**
**Sexual Awareness Quiz**
**Pub**

**Friday Prizes in the Pub**

### NMC

**Monday Feb 21st**
**11:30 - 1:00**
**"How is Your**
**Sex Awarness?"**
**Fill out**
**Questionnaire**
**Win Prizes**

**Thursday Feb 24th**
**11:00 - 1:30**
**Niagara Regional Heath Unit**
**Friday Prizes in the Pub**

**Friday Feb 24th**
**12:00**
**AIDS Niagara Lecture**
**In The Theatre**

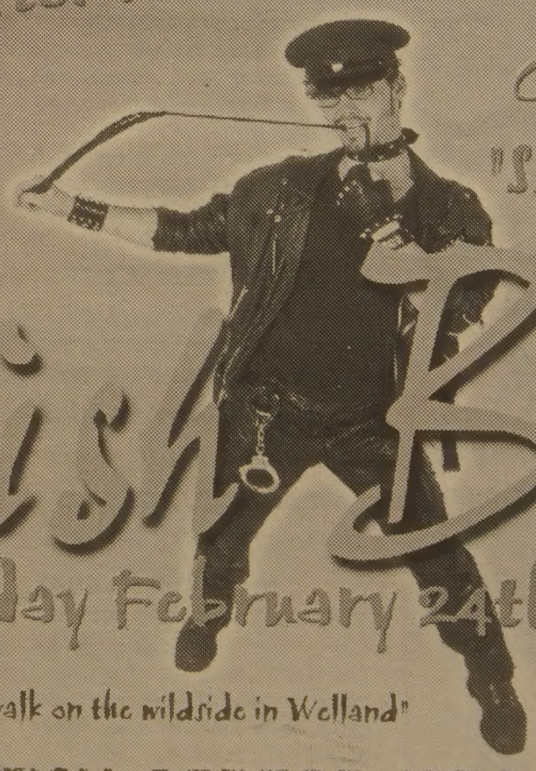
**Look for**
**CAPTAIN CONDOM**
**all week long**

## SEX EVENTS AT AFTER HOURS

Monday February 21st 2000
**Ladies Night at the Student Centre**

Free with Johnny Angels
"AMERICAN FANTASY"
All Male Review
2 Hour Show
Doors 8:00
Girls enter our "Ms. After Hours" Cross Dressing Pagent
$100.00 CASH For Winner

Tuesday February 22nd 2000
Doors 8pm
TONY LEE
XXX HYPNOSIS SHOW
Get Your Free "S.A.C. Sex Bag"



# Fetish Ball

Thursday February 24th 2000
"take a walk on the wildride in Welland"
Doors 9:00 p.m.
LIVE FETISH PERFORMERS ALL NIGHT

# SPORTS

# Niagara wins, playoff hopes still alive

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

Niagara Knights women's volleyball team inched closer to a playoff spot on Feb. 4 against Lambton College Lions from Sarnia.

The women swept the Lions three games straight for the victory, controlling the net and setting the tempo the entire match.

Leading the Knights to a 26-24, 25-22, 25-21 victory were Ginni Llord with 16 kills, Diane VandenHoven with 10 kills, and Jenn Carpenter with four aces and four kills.

VandenHoven, 20, from Mitchell, Ont., led the way with huge kills for the Knights' attack.

"I was ready to play and charged. I want to beat every team really bad now because this is my last year," said VandenHoven.

VandenHoven said, "Overall, we played defence really well as a team, but we had a little trouble covering the middle hole.

"I just wanted to take advantage of their weakness by hitting in the open areas," said VandenHoven, adding, "I want to keep the team motivated and fired up in every match from now on because I don't want it to be a shortened season."

For the Knights to capture the final spot in the West division they needed to beat Redeemer College from Ancaster last night, three games straight or three games to one, with a better point spread than their first encounter of the season. Redeemer won that match three games to one.

Heather Richardson, (6), and Diane VandenHoven, (10), defend Niagara College's women's volleyball team, against Lambton College Lions, of Sarnia, on Feb. 4.

**Photo by Mike Wencel**

# Knights leap into first

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

After the smoke cleared, Niagara College's men's basketball team found themselves in first place.

Niagara had little trouble in winning their fifth straight game by downing Lambton College, of Sarnia, 91-60 on Feb. 4.

The win ousted Fanshawe College of London from the Ontario Colleges Athletic Associations (OCAA) West division lead.

The game was never close, as Niagara had a run in the first half that put them ahead 23-4. By halftime they stretched the lead to 49-24. As a result of the large lead, Niagara was able to use the entire bench, substituting players in and out freely throughout the game.

Forward Ernell Ellis led the way for Niagara by scoring 20 points, while Aaron Paisley contributed 18 points. Every player on the Niagara roster scored at least six points in the balanced attack.

The game saw the return of Haldon Hutchinson from a groin injury. Hutchinson said the bench played well "Andre (Creighton) and Matt (Miron), two bench players, played really well. Andre had six points. He played really well."

Hutchinson, who was the most valuable player of the OCAA all-star game, was satisfied with his performance. "I just came off the injury list. I played half decent but I didn't take a lot of shots. I just dished off the ball and tried to get myself in shape," he said.

Hutchinson said the large lead was what he needed: "Where my level of play is at, it was a really good game. We were up on them for a while, so I guess I just fooled around to see what I could do."

Niagara's next home against the St. Clair College Saints, of Windsor, is Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. in the Welland campus gym.

*To advertise in Riding the Riff IV to be published March 24/00, call 735-2211 Ext 7748*

1/2 page ad special
$100


# Men's volleyball still perfect at home

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

The dominance continues and Niagara College is not complaining.

Niagara's men's volleyball team continued their undefeated-at-home winning streak by defeating Seneca College, of North York, four games to one Tuesday night.

Niagara started the match slowly, losing the first game 25-23. Niagara made a lot of unforced errors. A strong run at the end of the game made the final score closer than it team should have been.

*'For some reason we start too relaxed and it takes us a while to get warmed up, probably because we're older.'*
*— Kerby Bentley*

Kerby Bentley, Niagara's team captain, said a slow start is not uncommon for the team. "It is typical of our team. For some reason we start too relaxed, and it takes us a while to get warmed up, probably because we're older. We've done it pretty much the whole season but we keep our composure and pull it out in the end."

The second game saw Niagara play with more intensity. "Our blocking got better. We got used to their players and the way they hit. They hit at a lower level than we were used to," said Bentley.

Niagara's blocking was the key to the game. They outblocked Seneca for the match 22 to three. Bentley said this has to do with the team's training. The team uses a system called Plyometrics. It involves "different exercises with short, fast bursts."

Bentley said Plyometrics has helped the team in a lot of areas. "We're more intense. We're getting better legs and we're jumping higher and penetrating further across the net. That's why we are getting better blocking."

Bentley said Seneca was a good team to play going into the playoffs. "They were pretty consistent. Their offence is pretty simple though. We would like more competition going into the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) playoffs."

Niagara is currently on top of the OCAA West division.

Niagara was led by Matt Piccolo, who had 14 kills and nine stuffed blocks while Graeme Gaunt had 15 kills and two stuffed blocks. Gaunt ended the match with three consecutive thundering kills and prevented the match from going to five games.

Niagara finished its regular season last night against Redeemer College of Ancaster. They will be competing in the provincial championship held at Loyalist College, in Belleville, from Feb. 17 to 19.

# In The News

# VolNet assisting voluntary industry

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

Giving volunteer organizations access to the Internet was the theme of the Voluntary Sector Network Support Program (VolNet) media conference on Feb. 1 in St. Catharines.

VolNet is a federal government program initiated by Industry Canada that assists voluntary organizations across Canada in obtaining Internet access. The group of people on hand wanted to get the point across that no matter what the volunteer organization is about, it can do a more effective job with access to the information highway.

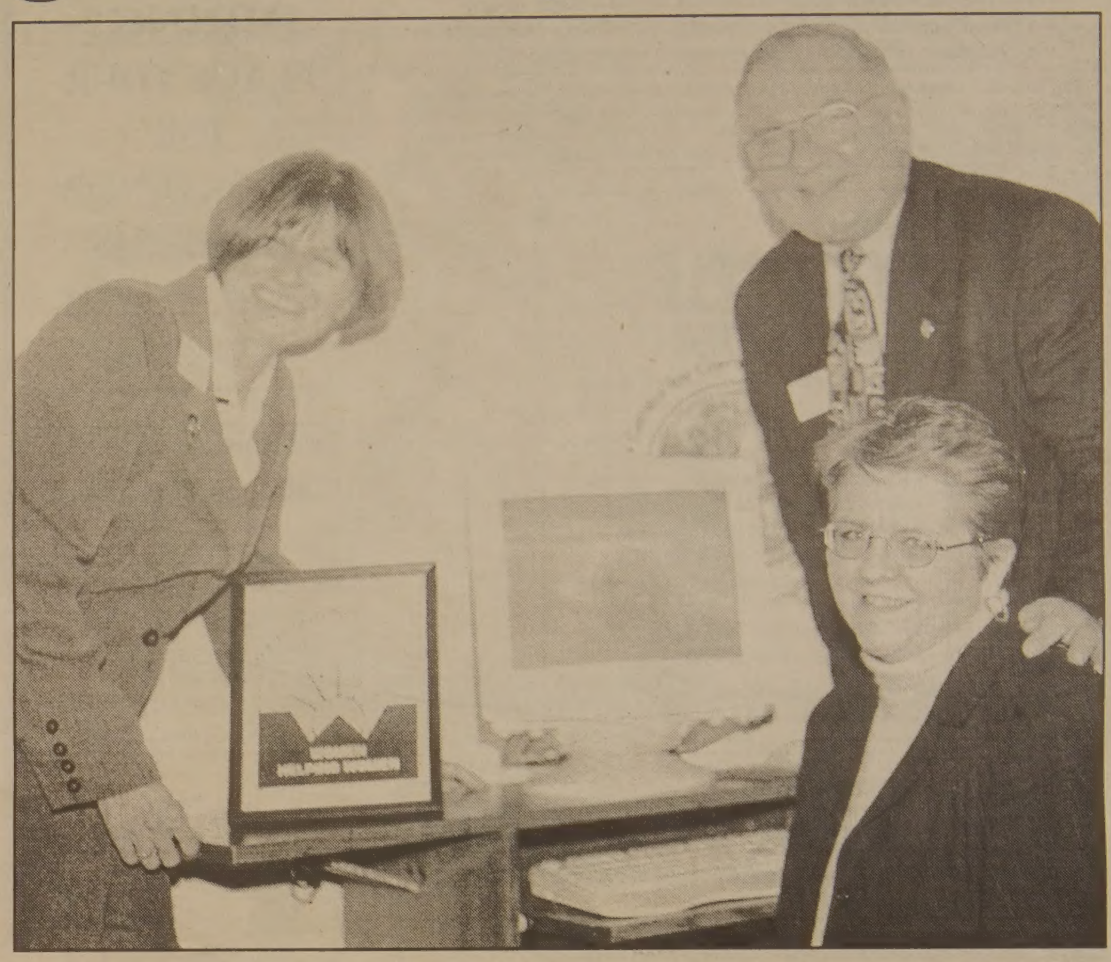
"There is great importance in the voluntary sector," says Brenda Herchmer, who is the project co-ordinator of VolNet. She is also on secondment from the Recreation and Leisure Services program at Niagara College.

St. Catharines MP Walt Lastewka was on hand to reinforce the fact the voluntary sector's services are essential. "The strength of communities lies in its volunteers," says Lastewka. VolNet can also provide computer training to all those involved in voluntary organizations who need to learn Internet skills.

Lastewka also pointed out Volnet's goal is to have 10,000 organizations nationwide connected by March 31, 2001.

Each participant of the VolNet conference echoed the same sentiments by saying the voluntary sector must have the ability to share information with other voluntary sectors. Members of VolNet's conference want the public to realize that volunteer groups can't be at their best if they are not equipped.

"We are grateful to Industry Canada for the creation of VolNet," says Herchmer.



St. Catharines MP Walt Lastewka, at right back, Brenda Herchmer, project co-ordinator, at right front, and Margaret Jarrell, executive director, attending VolNet media conference.
Photo by Ram Krishnamurthy

# *WWF laying boots to WCW*

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

Column

Why does World Championship Wrestling (WCW) suck? Let me tell you.

Credibility.

WCW just isn't credible. Bad management. Bad ideas. Bad workers. It all equals no credibility for this organization and fans just do not respect that.

The problem begins and ends with the storylines that WCW creates. They might have a good idea for someone on Monday Nitro. They might build a story for Thursday Thunder. It might spawn some interest from the fans. Then it gets dropped in time for the pay-per-view. My example is the Hummer storyline. Created. Dropped. Resurrected. And dropped again.

What is up with that? It deteriorates WCW's credibility for their stories. Then no one will believe what they are trying to portray on television. No one will care.

The wrestlers don't help the storyline problem any. They might be injured, or take time off to go to rehab or disappear because of contract disputes. They come and go as they please and this disrupts the storylines. How can you continue a story when the characters aren't around to participate?

Management is the worst problem of all. They hire and fire people as if it is going out of style. They demote people they don't like. They push people they do like. There is no consistency. They don't respect all the wrestlers, although they should. They burn their bridges with the wrestlers. In turn, the wrestlers don't respect the management.

My example here is the four "Radicals" who left WCW for the World Wrestling Federation. Their departure was an unclassy move on their part, but they didn't respect the management, they didn't respect their contracts and they didn't respect their organization. I disagree with what they did but realize it is hard to honour an organization that doesn't respect you back.

***WCW just isn't credible. Bad management. Bad ideas. Bad workers. It all equals no credibility for this organization and fans just do not respect that.***

Here is the hardcore trivia question of the week. What are the three faces of Mick Foley? You can send your answer, along with your name and program to niagaranews@yahoo.com. Or you can bring it up to the Journalism-Print newsroom, S212. The first correct answer will get an honourable mention in next week's column. The answer to last week's question was Hamilton.


**Calling All Bands**

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara that are interested in some FREE print publicity!

*"Riding the Riff IV,"* will be published March 24, 2000.

If your band has released a CD, or are about to, you'll want to be in this popular college edition.

It's a first come basis! We'll need to condust an interview and take a photo so don't wait.

You must purchase a 1/2 page ad at a special price for this collectors edition.

**To register your band or for advertising information call 735-2211 Ext. 7748**



*your ticket to ride!*

**Student Discounts** up to **40%**

*This offer valid for all regularly scheduled services operated by Coach Canada*

(Montreal Corridor, Niagara Peninsula and Key Southwestern Cities.)

For Fare & Schedule Information Call
Niagara Falls 357-2133
St. Catharines 682-9206
1-800-461-7661

Coach Canada
Operated by trentway-wagar inc.

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

***THE Niagara News does not attest to the claims of any employment opportunity and encourages all those interested in any position offered to fully research every opportunity.***

***THE Ontario Human Rights Code,*** *1981, prohibits discrimmination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, or handicap in "Accommodation" and "Employment" advertisements. The Niagara News reserves the right to make any necessary changes in advertising copy.*


**FIND YOURSELF IN THE RESERVE**

Here's an opportunity to meet someone with depth and knowledge you may not have had the privilege of knowing before. Yourself. In the Reserve, you discover more of what you're made of by mastering new challenges. You work selected evenings and weekends, meet people with similar interests, learn with hands-on experience, and earn part-time income. Find your true potential. Join in!

Visit the Lincoln and Welland Regiment
Open House every Thursday evening
81 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON
685-9694 or 1-800-856-8488
www.dnd.ca

CANADIAN RESERVE
YOUR PRIDE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR MOVE.

**HIRING?**
**PLACE YOUR JOB OPPORTUNITY AD HERE**
**CALL 735-2211 EXT. 7748**

**Fraternities • Sororities •Clubs •Student Groups**

Earn $1,000-$1,500 this semester with the easy CIS three hour fundraising event. No sales required. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so call 1-888-923-3238 today or visit www.campusfundraiser.com!

**LOOKING FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

Why not try Forest Fighting? **Wildfire Specialists Inc.**, is currently accepting limited registrations for the S-100 Forest Fighting Training to be held in March.
For more details and information contact:
**wildfire@sympatico.ca** or call **(705) 693-0323**

**Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.**
**Lakeside residential Girls Camp in Maine**
**Visas Arranged**

**Counselors:** Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim, sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian.

**Services Workers:** Maintenance, laundry, office, kitchen.
Non-smokers. June 18 to August 24. Attractive salary (US) plus travel allowance. Send resume (C.V.) including phone number to:

Kippewa, Box 340,
Westwood, Massachusetts, 02090-0340, U.S.A.
e-mail: kippewa@tiac.net tel: 781-762-8291 fax: 781-255-7167

HAPPY WITH YOUR JOB?
SUPER!
JOE WANTS YOU!

**NOW RECRUITING**
ALL POSITIONS
Servers • bartenders • cooks •
F.O.H & B.O.H. Managers

51 Niagara Street
734-9911

*Good Food . . . Good Fun . . . Bad Temper!*

If you would like copies of the Niagara News for your customers call:
735-2211 ext. 7748
(min. 25 copies)

**Niagara News Publishing Schedule**

Feb. 11/00
Feb. 18/00

BREAK WEEK

March 10/00
March 17/00
March 24/00
April 7/00
April 21/00

**"You're Hired!"**
**BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU HEARD THAT?**
THEN COME VISIT US!
hrcc.becon.org/hrcc

- RESUME WRITING
- COVER LETTERS
- GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
- JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!!

JOB GYM

**HUMAN RESOURCE CENTRE OF CANADA FOR STUDENTS**

| ST. CATHARINES | NIAGARA FALLS | WELLAND |
|---|---|---|
| 43 CHURCH ST. #502 | 5853 PEER ST. | 250 THOROLD RD |
| 988-4154 | 354-2534 | 732-5025 |

Human Resources Development Canada / Développement des ressources humaines Canada — Youth Employment Strategy / Stratégie emploi jeunesse — Canada


# MEDIA

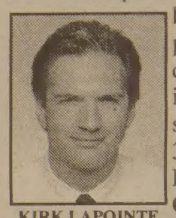
## Pointers for readers

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

The formula for a successful newspaper is simply to focus on local coverage and to direct the content towards readers.

The Hamilton Spectator forgot this formula, but with the help of editor-in-chief Kirk LaPointe, it is putting its focus back on Hamilton, Ont.

LaPointe discussed what problems the Spectator had and how he helped turn the paper around to direct it towards its readers, at a seminar on Jan. 31, at the Burlington Art Centre, in Burlington, Ont., titled The Future of Newspapers.


KIRK LAPOINTE

As well as being editor, LaPointe is associate publisher of the Spectator. He was also one of the founding editors of the new newspaper, the National Post.

LaPointe mentioned a few of the ideas that helped get the Spectator back on its feet. He said he had a journalist write a novel through the newspaper, one page a day.

He also said the Spectator is looking to teens and seniors as readers, but the reporters aren't going to "talk down to them. We are not going to have a 'Hey Kids!' approach," LaPointe said.

"The Spectator is profitable. It's growing, it's increasing, it's respected, and I still think it's on the cusp of its greatest days."

The Spectator apparently lost its way in the '80s and early '90s. Readers were not bothering to renew their subscriptions. The most common reason that they were giving was that they didn't have time to read it.

The Spectator, in return, started editing stories to make them smaller and easier to read.

It was still losing readers by the thousands. Editors cut more out of the paper. Among the first few things to go was the extensive coverage of local issues. The paper adopted a "harvesting strategy."

"Our response was to cut content," LaPointe said, "to make (reading the Spectator) a breezier, swifter experience, almost to apologize for getting in anyone's way."

LaPointe said the Spectator wanted to let readers know that if they didn't have 10 minutes to read it, they would make it a seven-minute experience. That "it will be out in the blue box before you even crack it open," he said.

"What the Spectator misread was the real message that readers weren't dropping us because they didn't have time; they were dropping us 'cause we weren't worth spending time with.'"

Before LaPointe became editor, Southam owned the Spectator and tried to correct the ongoing problem. Under media magnate Conrad Black, the focus was placed on local coverage. They wanted to appeal to the people who wanted to read, LaPointe said.

He added Black believed in the strength of newspapers. He directed the focus back to ink on paper and away from pursuits that didn't have large markets.

In 1997, LaPointe helped rebuild the Spectator. The stories went from seven inches to 55 inches in length. The editors created full-page specialty sections and widened coverage.

They felt that they had to prove themselves to the reader, LaPointe said.

With these changes, circulation went up. For the first time in 144 months, they saw two months with circulation increases.

LaPointe then went to work for the National Post. The Post was being built "out of the back door" of the Spectator office.

The intent of the National Post was to make people feel guilty for not reading the paper and not to bore them.

The Spectator was sold to Sun Corp,, then to a Quebec company, and now lies in the hands of TorStar, which owns the Toronto Star.

The Spectator was losing readers once again and TorStar turned the paper around within 60 days. LaPointe was rehired as editor and has "made 200 changes already and will make 100 more," LaPointe said.

He also mentioned The Burlington News, which is that city's section of the Spectator.

Since the Spectator was losing money on the section, they reduced it from six pages to three, evoking an outcry from citizens of Burlington.

He said that other areas' readers are now learning about Burlington. He admitted his efforts haven't been perfect, but he is still looking for more ways to "be here."

LaPointe doesn't think there will be room for four newspapers in Toronto within five to 10 years, but isn't worried that the Spectator will lose readers.

He also isn't worried that the newspaper business will die in the future, since, he said, "Every single municipal idea has been founded by a newspaper."

"Newspapers are going to continue to develop and deliver," LaPointe said. "We are going to reinforce our journalistic value as serving as information assistants in the online world."

LaPointe said he doesn't worry about readers leaving the newsprint newspaper issues for the free news on the Internet. "A reader is a reader, in my mind," he said. "I have a (greater) fear that people will never discover us (rather than leave us)."

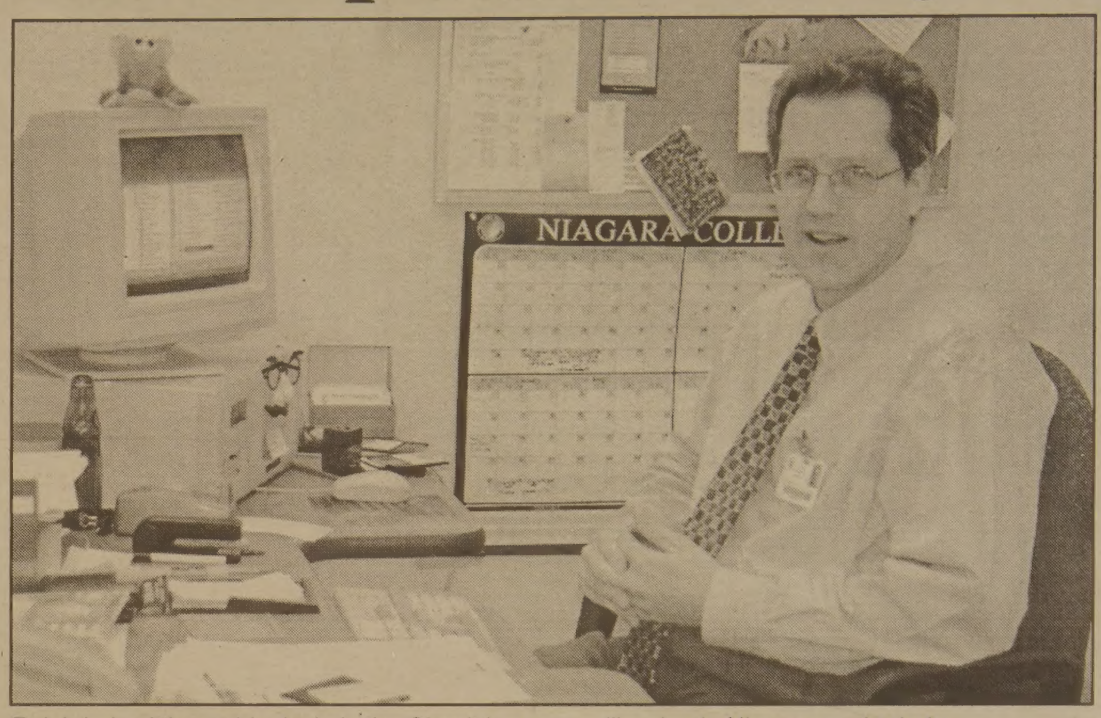
The advice LaPointe gives future journalists is to "know your history, your current events and your computers." He said most young journalists will have to create pieces in a multimedia environment.

"Be very, very brave and be courageous. Find time to do something on your own, to create something on your own."

# CAMPUS COVERAGE

# Glendale LRC provides all you'll need

## *Learning tools available at Niagara College's resource centre*




Ralph Lair, sitting at his desk, is the Glendale campus librarian in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Photo by Jennifer Mago**

**By JENNIFER MAGO**
**Staff Writer**

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at Niagara College's Glendale campus opened with the Niagara-on-the-Lake site in September 1998 but it lacked one crucial element.

"When the library opened there were no books here yet," said Ralph Lair, campus librarian. In the beginning, shelving was delayed and books were still at the old campus in St. Catharines. Now, a year and a half later, everything is running smoothly.

"It's central to the whole campus," Lair says.

The LRC is on the second floor in the middle of the North Wing. It has an open layout and is one level.

Lair said he feels the high ceilings and carpets help to limit the sound. The books and the shelves break up the space. "It's a good place for students to sit, relax, read a newspaper or study."

If students are looking for a quiet place, two have been designated as quiet study areas.

There are nine study rooms in the library. Eight of them include a large table with chairs. One of the study rooms is meant for peer tutoring. If the study rooms are free of occupants, groups are welcome to go in and work there. The study rooms can be reserved for a couple of hours with the use of a student card.

The Glendale LRC provides the same databases that are available at the LRC on the Welland campus. Also available is an increasing variety of video-related equipment.

Students may use a laptop computer and projector reserved for presentations. The library also has Internet access, videotapes and subscriptions to magazines and newspapers. The books at the library are ones that relate to the programs and courses taught at the campus.

"If a student lives near here and happens to take most of their classes at another campus, they can use this library," said Lair.

Books held at another campus can be found in the library catalogue. The books can then be requested and will arrive two days later.

The west wall of the library is a wide expanse of large windows. It offers an excellent view for people just wanting to relax.

Students may also connect to the college's network at the library if they have a network card. The Glendale LRC is open Mondays to Thursdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

The LRC has an Internet Web site at www.niagarac.on.ca/lrc.

The services of the library are outlined there.


BIG BROTHERS
BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE
BOWL-O-RAMA LANES
NIAGARA ST., WELLAND
Saturday, March 4th
For more information call
Big Brothers of South Niagara at
735-0570 or
drop by our offices in the
Seaway Mall
Win a trip to LAS VEGAS
A United Way Agency
BIG BROTHERS of South Niagara Inc.

# POTPOURRI

## Niagara faculty assists Hungarian colleges

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

For years, faculty of Niagara College's Business Administration — Human Resources program have been contributing their experience to financial colleges in Hungary.

"It's a very valuable, rewarding experience," said Nelson Lacroix, a professor in the program at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As a result of some other activities taking place in Budapest, Hungary, involving Niagara College President Dan Patterson and other faculty members here, Lacroix said the financial colleges in Hungary have developed an interest in human resources management. Since their programs are "strictly" accounting and finance oriented, the colleges in Hungary began to pursue the idea of combining their present programs with the human resources management sector.

The personnel of Hungarian colleges felt Niagara's program set high standards. Endorsement by Niagara would be beneficial since their colleges would receive good reputations in the field, he explains.

In the summer of 1998, Lacroix hosted a group of visitors from Hungary for the first time. The main purpose of their visit was to take the outline they'd created and develop the specific curriculum.

*Niagara's program is 'highly regarded and well-advanced in Canada.'*
*— Nelson Lacroix*

The key was to see if it would be able to meet specific standards and have Niagara College consider endorsing their diploma, he said.

In November 1999, Lacroix travelled to Budapest for two weeks to assist the colleges in developing the human resources component of their curriculum. He worked with faculties in the institution on a daily basis.

He delivered some lectures for Hungarian students while visiting.

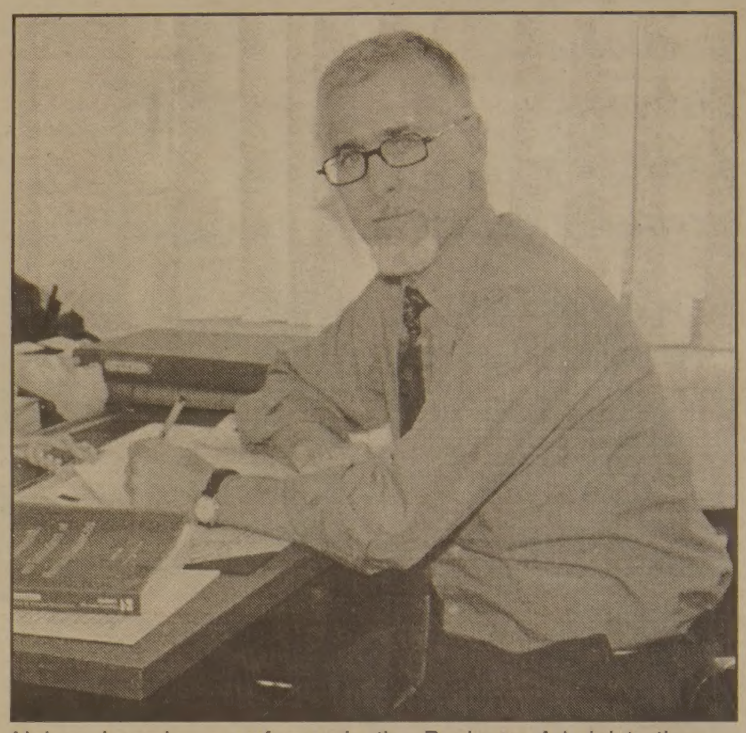
Lacroix said "fascinating" is the word to describe the "ancient" city of Budapest, which has "spectacular" buildings. As well, he found people to be "very" friendly despite the language barrier.

He said he's expecting one more visit from college personnel from Budapest by the end of March. At that time, their completed and detailed course information will be reviewed and, possibly, Niagara College will endorse the diploma for the two-year program and the degree for the three-year program.

Today, he said, effective human resources management is one of the key areas any organization needs to concern itself with to be "competitive and up-to-speed."

Niagara's program is "highly regarded and well-advanced in Canada," he said.

Lacroix has been teaching at the college for 14 years and is a graduate of the Personnel Management Industrial Relations program, the former Business Administration — Human Resources program.



Nelson Lacroix, a professor in the Business Administration — Human Resources program, has been working with the colleges in Hungary.

**Photo by Natsuko Tamura**

## Family resource project set to go

### *YWCA, ECE, Child Care Centre join in new program for students with children*

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, the Child Care Centre, and St. Catharines' YWCA are "Growing Together" in a new family resource program project.

Beginning this month, the Growing Together program is being offered to Niagara College students who have children at the Child Care Centre.

The program, sponsored by the YWCA, is being created to give parents and childcare givers an opportunity to interact with their children.

The program offers theme-based activities such as songs, stories, and games, gross-motor activities, and parenting programs. It is open to parents, grandparents, relatives, childcare givers, and children to six years of age.

Resource material and information on parenting courses will be available for the parents. The program is free of charge.

Pat Eversden, manager at the Child Care Centre, says she believes the program will be a "great benefit" to the students at Niagara College with children.

"Parents will have an opportunity to go somewhere after school in a relaxed environment to interact with their children and other parents," says Eversden.

She says it will give parents a support system and a chance to watch the program's staff interact with the children.

The staff consists of Allison Soave, ECE program co-ordinator, and Sharon Milne and Tanya Newton, both of the YWCA. Three second-year students from the ECE program have been chosen to participate in this new program as their field placement.

Soave says she thinks the program will be valuable to the three students.

"It's going to be an excellent learning opportunity for the second-year students. It's a unique learning experience," says Soave.

The students, Miranda McCausland, Jodi Breakwell and Kelly Major, all 23, have been working nonstop to organize, advertise and market the program.

The trio agrees that it was a lot of work to get the program started.

"I've learned the great amount of work that goes into starting a program. It's valuable work experience," says Breakwell.

The students will work as staff of the program during their fourth term of the ECE program.

"I hope that we provide an environment where parents and children can spend quality time together," says Breakwell.

*'I think it'll give parents an idea of what children really do when they're at the daycare centre.'*
*— Kelly Major*

"I think it'll give parents an idea of what children really do when they're at the daycare centre," says Major.

"I'm looking forward to serving the families and helping them interact with the children and help parents with parenting skills," says McCausland.

Milne says the program will give parents a chance to learn how to have fun with their children.

"Parents will have the opportunity to play with and learn from their children so they can play and have a good time together," says Milne.

The program will be held Monday, Feb. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 15, 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 16, 4 to 6 p.m., and Thursday, Feb. 17, 5 to 7 p.m. in room 106, Merritt building, at Niagara College's Welland campus.

## *What's cookin'?*

Jay Jackson, a cook at East Side Mario's, in Welland, prepares a pasta dish at the college's East Side Mario's day at the Welland campus cafeteria on Feb. 8.

**Photo by Robert Lapensée**